ぎんぎつね gingitsune

ぎんぎつね

gingitsune

1

落合さより

Sayori Ochiai

落合さより

第1集

UJ ウルトラYJC

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ここは、とある町の小さな稲荷神社。
十五代目跡取・冴木まことは、不思議な能力を持つ神使の狐、銀太郎が見えるのです。
ですが、このお狐様、口は悪いしヤル気もない。
おせっかいな性格のまことは、その能力を人のために役立てようといたしますが…。
さて、神様の杜で、今日は何が起こりますやら――

集英社

装幀　森田彩美（POCKET）

ぎんぎつね

gingitsune

第１集

落合さより

ぎんぎつね

gingitsune

第1集

落合さより

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第一集

ぎんぎつね 第1集

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※この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などにはいっさい関係ありません。

GINTAROU!

CHAPTER 1: THE 15TH GENERATION
ORACLE AND GINTAROU

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N!

I TOLD YOU I DON'T GO UNDER THERE!

HEY DUMMY.

GINTAROU!

CHAPTER 1: THE 15TH GENERATION ORACLE AND GINTAROU

Su
to

GIIIIINJJJ

IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL, RIGHT?

BUT GIN~ I COULDN'T SAY NO!

BESIDES, I DON'T LIKE BEING TOLD WHAT TO DO.

JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK A HERALD OF GOD IS?!

QUIT PESTE-RING ME!

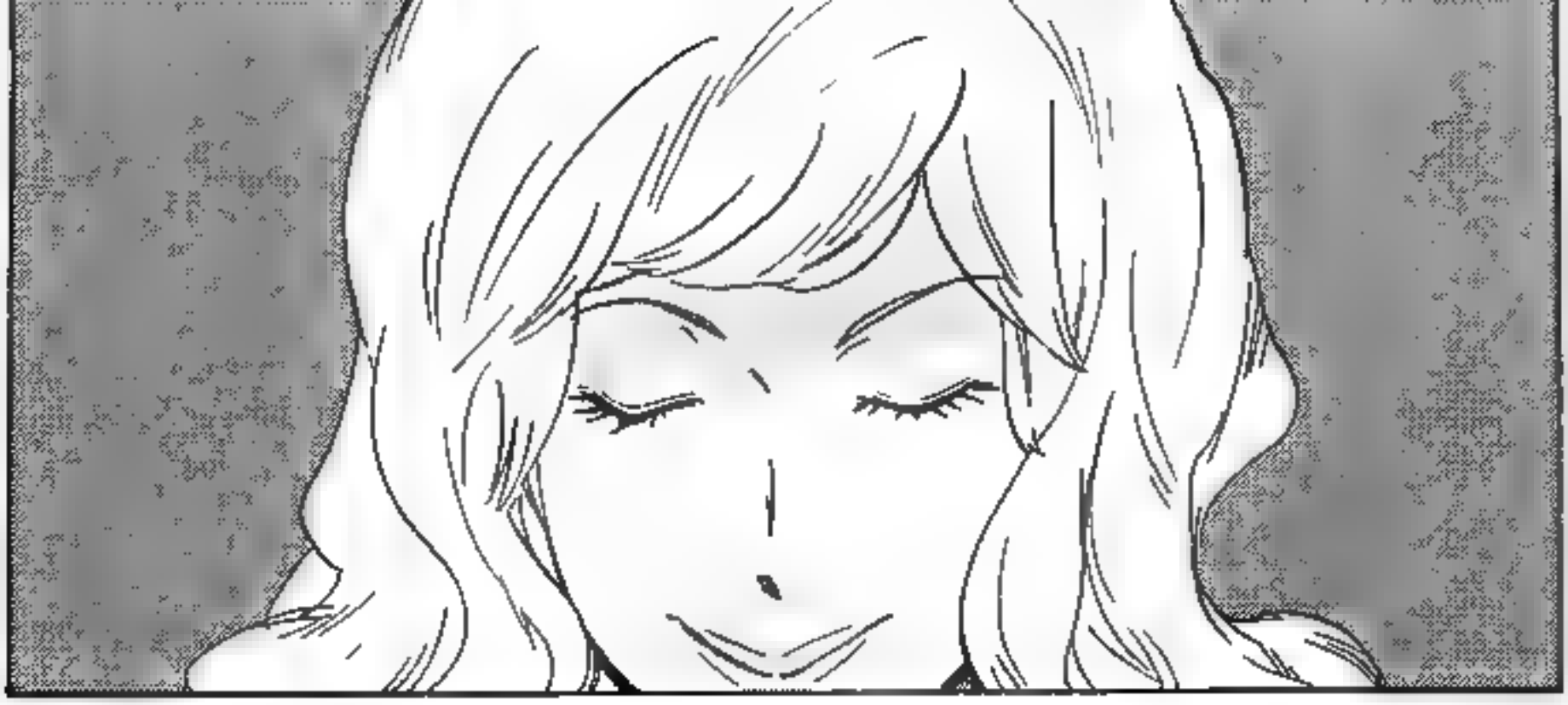
THIS NONSENSE AGAIN?!

HURRY HURRY, EVERYONE IS WAITING!

WAIT A MINUTE, MAKOTO.

PLEASE?

COME ON, I'LL GIVE YOU AN ORANGE.



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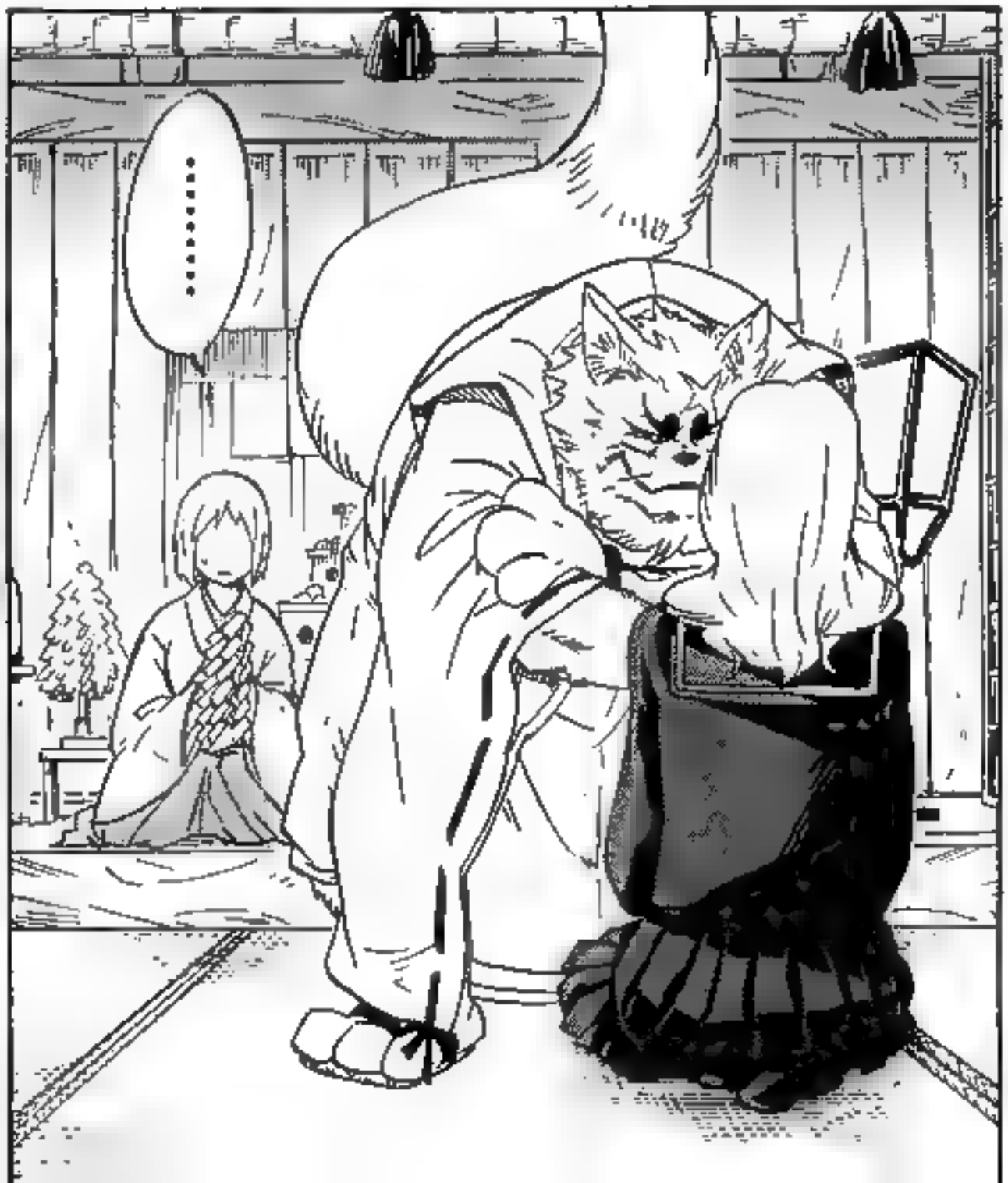

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.....

I WOULD TELL HER TO BE CAREFUL THOUGH, THIS GIRL LOOKS PRETTY STUBBORN.

REALLY!? THANK GOODNESS!!

OR PERHAPS, AT WORSE, BEGGING MIGHT...

WELL, I THINK IT SHOULD BE FINE.

LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER PERSON WANTS TO APOLOGIZE AS WELL.

REALLY!?

I'M SO GLAD I DECIDED TO ASK YOU FOR ADVICE!

I HEARD THAT YOUR FORTUNE TELLING'S GOOD, SAEKI!

WHHH TRY TO BE HUMBLE WHEN APOLO-GIZING OK?

AIN'T THAT GREAT, YUMI!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS HIS FAULT AND ALL~

IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT TO BREAK UP FROM SOMETHING SO TRIVIAL.

AH...

Da

Okay~ Thanks!

WHAT A BOTHER, DON'T GO USING ME LIKE I'M A FORTUNE TELLING MACHINE.

THANKS...

SORRY...

.....

SO COUGH UP THE ORAN-GES.

.....

Enshrined here is a God of harvest.

Even though it's small, our family has been running this Inari shrine since the Edo period.

But as this shrine's heir, I can see him normally.

Normal people can't see him, of course.

This fellow here is a herald of God.

when my mother died and I was at her funeral.

The first time I was able to see him was,

It seems that he is here in God's stead to watch over the shrine.

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE THE 15TH GENERATION HEIR OF THIS SHRINE.

YOU'RE YUUKO'S KID, MAKOTO EH? CAN YOU SEE ME?

His partner went off somewhere about a hundred years ago.

GIVE ME ANOTHER

OK

Apparently, a herald of God come in pairs, but

IS GINTAROU-SAMA HERE?

DAD!

MAKOTO!

!!!!!

YEP, HE'S EATING ORANGES NEXT TO ME.

BUT TO THINK HE HAS SUCH POWERS.

HE'S CERTAINLY A HERALD OF GOD.

Since I married into the family.

IS THAT SO? IT'S TOO BAD I CAN'T SEE GINTAROU-SAMA.

NEVER HAVE I SEEN SUCH A RUDE ORACLE THAT TREATS ME LIKE A NORMAL FOX.

YUUKO WAS A LOT MORE GRACEFUL AND FEMININE THAN YOU, MAKOTO.

DON'T COMPARE ME TO MY MOM.

UGH, CUT IT OUT

PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF MAKOTO.

Pan Pan

WHY DOES HE LIKE ORANGES SO MUCH ANYWAYS?

EVEN IF AN ORANGE IS INVOLVED!

OK OK, I GOT IT.

REGARDLESS, I WON'T DO IT EVER AGAIN!

KUA

Kiin Konn

SORRY, THE SHRINE IS A BIT BUSY TODAY...

COME ON SAEKI-SAN, PLEASE?

IF ANYTHING, I'LL DO IT HERE.

GARAGARA

EH—

I'M REALLY SORRY.

Bashi

IKEGAMI-SAN-

Wa

a

a

a

a

GOING OFF SPOUTING BULLSHIT!

LIAR! YOU TOLD ME IT WILL BE FINE IF I APOLOGIZE!

I APOLO-GIZED LIKE YOU SAID!

THAT'S NOT...

EVEN THOUGH I APOLO-GIZED!

CAN'T EAT UNLESS GIVEN AS OFFERING

MAN... I WANNA EAT SOME ORANGES~

DO TA DO TA

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PRO-DUCT HERE!

KUA

WHAT IS IT? I WON'T DO IT, YOU KNOW!!!

COME WITH ME, QUICK!

DO DA DO DA DO DA

JUST GO!

OH? GINTAROU-SAMA WAS HERE?

GINTAROU!

AH?

HEY,

MAKOTO.

THE KID WE DIVINED YESTERDAY! SHE SAID IT WENT BAD!

HUH?

DIDN'T YOU SAY IT SHOULD BE FINE?!

JUST WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T GET IT.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?! PEOPLE DEPEND ON YOU FOR THAT KIND OF STUFF!!

DIVINATION ISN'T SET IN STONE.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BUT,

ISN'T THAT FINE THOUGH?

.....

YOU HAVE THE POWER TO HELP, SO YOU SHOULD HELP THOSE IN NEED...

BESIDES, YOU DIDN'T EVEN TELL HER THE FULL MESSAGE.

WHAT ARE YOU...

IT'S YOU WHO IS DEPENDING ON ME.

YOU'RE MISTAKING SOMETHING HERE, MAKOTO

DON'T GET SO CONCEITED I'M NOT YOUR TOOL OR ANYTHING TO BE USED AT YOUR LEISURE.

THIS GIRL LOOKS REALLY STUBBORN...!

AH

I'M SICK OF IT, YOU LOT ONLY COME ASKING ME FOR HELP WHEN YOU'RE IN TROUBLE.

.....

NOT THAT YOU KIDS WOULD UNDERSTAND HOW SEEING THE FUTURE WORKS IN THE FIRST PLACE.

AH.

BEING SO FULL OF YOURSELF! YOU CALL YOURSELF A HERALD OF GOLD, BUT AREN'T YOU JUST A FOX IF YOU SIT AROUND AND DO NOTHING?!

IS IT WRONG TO BRING A LITTLE BIT OF HAPPINESS TO PEOPLE'S LIVES?

YOU'VE BEEN HAD.

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M JUST A MISCHIEVOUS FOX.

SERVES YOU RIGHT.

IT'S YOU WHO'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF I'M NOT HERE!

HA, IS THAT SO?

Ba shi

I DON'T CARE, I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE!

GO AWAY!

WHAT THE...

STUPID GIN...

WHAT'S GOING ON MAKOTO, WHAT'S WITH ALL THE YELLING?

I WAS DUMB FOR BELIEVING IN FORTUNE TELLING IN THE FIRST PLACE!

What should I do... I don't really feel like going home...

Gintarou is probably still mad at me...

.....

WHAT'S WITH YOU?!

GINTAROU IS NEVER WRONG! TAKE THOSE WORDS BACK!

WHAT'S WITH HER!

.....

DON

LET GO OF ME!

GINTAROU

G...GIN-TAROU?

GIN

.....

WAA

MAKOTO ONEE-CHAN!

ISN'T HE HERE?

WELL, NO, BUT...

DAD, HAVE YOU SEEN GINTAROU?

YOU KNOW I CAN'T SEE GIN-TAROU-SAMA...

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

WHAT'S WRONG?

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE HOME MAKOTO, AKI-CHAN IS...

I LOST MY MOM'S RING!

YOU HELPED FIND AKI'S DOLL BEFORE RIGHT?

I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HELP ME FIND THE RING, TOO.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ONEE-CHAN?

IT WAS A KEEPSAKE FROM GRANNY...

MAKOTO?

UWAA, DIRTY...

HUMANS ARE SO SUPERFICAL IN THEIR SHOWING OF GRATITUDE.

WELL, AT LEAST IT'S BETTER THAN NOTHING.

A SHRINE THIS SMALL MUST BE OUTSIDE OF THE JURISDICTION OF GOD.

THERE ISN'T EVEN A FOX TO WATCH OVER IT

BUT SHE'S ALREADY WORKING ME TO THE BONES AND SHE DOESN'T SHOW ME ANY RESPECT AT ALL. SHE WAS FURIOUS ABOUT SOMETHING SO I LEFT!

NAH, SHE'S NOT QUITE A FULL-FLEDGED ORACLE YET

YOU HAD A FIGHT WITH YOUR ORACLE?! AREN'T YOU A STRANGE ONE.

THAT'S WHY I'M WANDERING, LOOKING FOR A REPLACEMENT

IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A HUNDRED YEARS SINCE I SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE SHRINE.

I JUST HAPPENED TO WANDER OUTSIDE BUT,

THE DOGS WERE BARKING AT ME, THE IRON BOARS WERE TRYING TO RUN ME OVER. WHAT A MESS.

THOUGH IT S NOT LIKE I HAD TO GET OUT OF THE WAY OR ANYTHING

WE DON'T EVEN TALK WITH OUR ORACLE UNLESS IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY.

BUT TO THINK YOU HAD SUCH A QUARREL...

WELL, AT LEAST NOW WE WERE IN THE PAST.

FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, LOOKS LIKE YOUR SHRINE IS FAIRLY WELL-KNOWN.

WELL... WE DON'T GO OUTSIDE VERY OFTEN BUT...

BESIDES, YOU CAN'T BRING YOURSELF TO ABANDON THE SHRINE YOU'VE PROTECTED FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, CAN YOU?

LIKEWISE, A SHRINE WITHOUT A HERALD WILL BE FORSAKEN BY THE GOD AND WILL SOON FALL FROM GRACE.

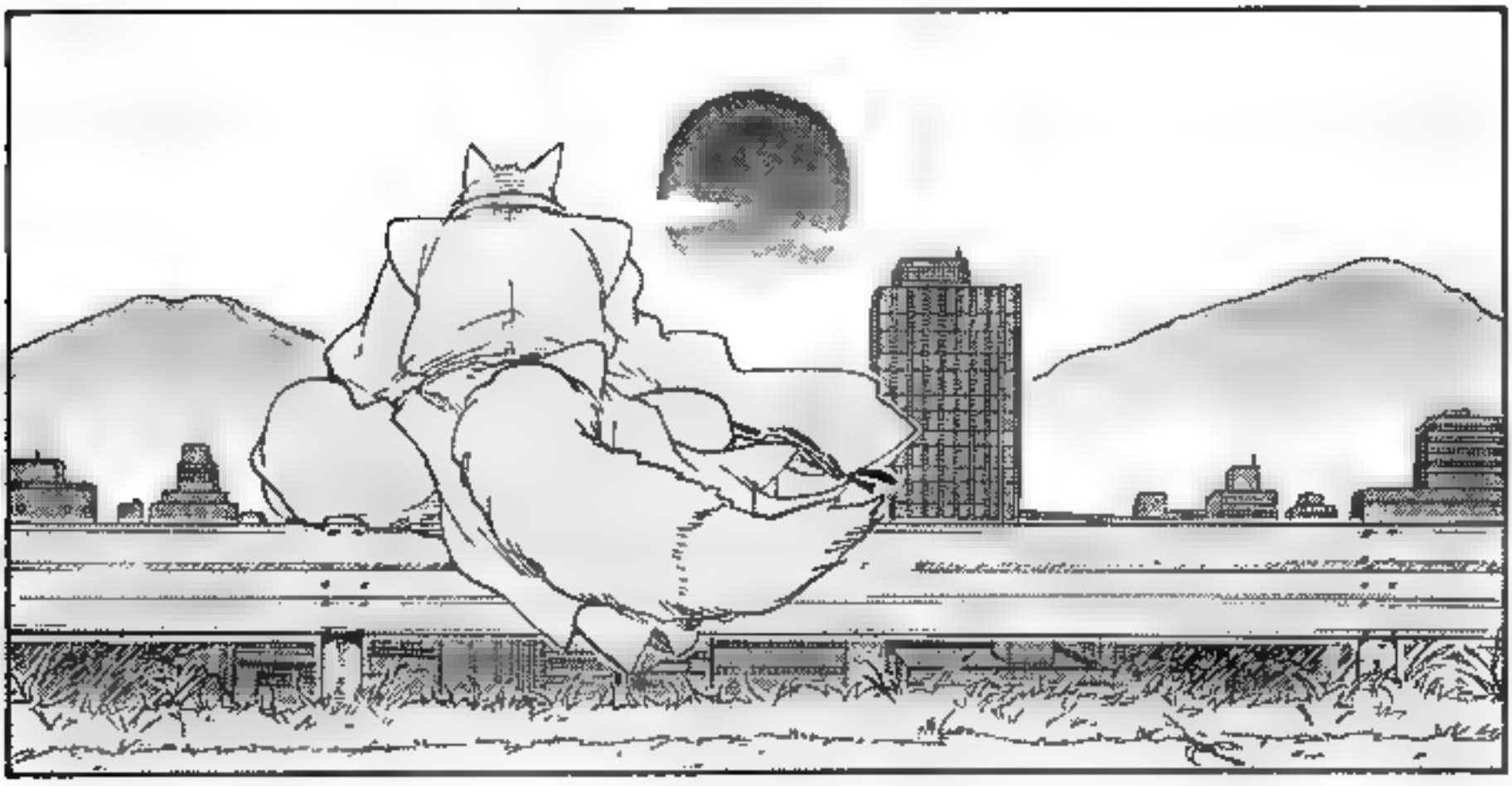
WE HERALDS CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF OUR GOD.

WHAT'S A HERALD GONNA DO IF HE GETS LED AROUND BY A HUMAN? GO BACK TO YOUR SHRINE.

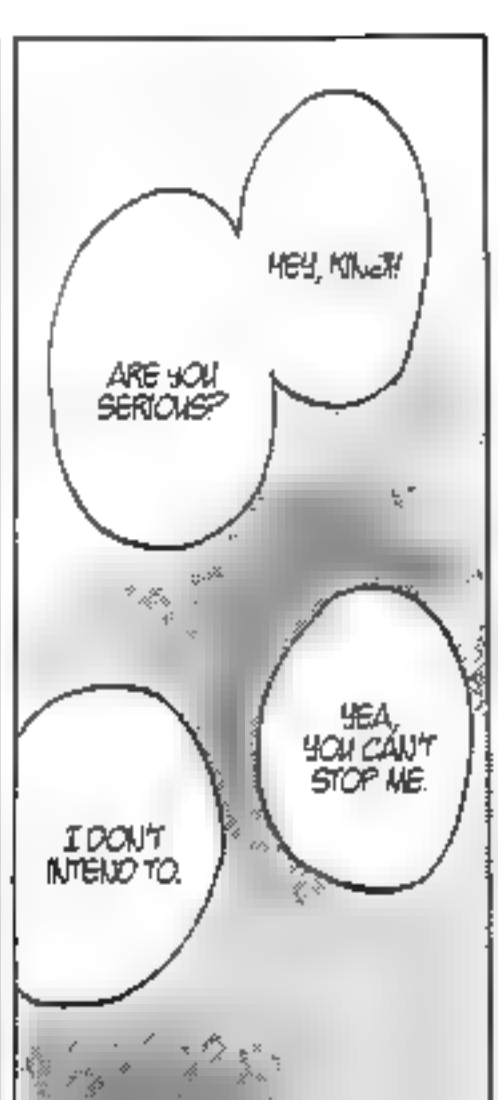
THE TIMES HAVE CERTAINLY CHANGED.

TCH. THEY SAY THAT INARI RESIDED WITH US IN THE PAST BUT,

T/N. I honestly have no idea how accurate this is I spent a long time fussing over it but I couldn't get a handle on what it means 100%



CAN'T SAY, I DIDN'T THINK THAT FAR AHEAD.
BUT YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OUTSIDE. HAVE YOU? WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GO?


HEY, KIWI!
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
YEA, YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
I DON'T INTEND TO.

YOU'RE WRONG. IT IS PRECISELY BECAUSE THEY CAN'T SEE US THAT WE CAN HEAR THEIR TRUE FEELINGS.

I KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT

THE HUMANS JUST SAY WHATEVER THEY PLEASE, THEY DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY FAITH IN US, LET ALONE SEE US.

CAN'T YOU JUST PUT UP WITH IT?

THEY DON'T EXPECT ANYTHING OF US YOU KNOW.

I CAN SEE THE FUTURE, BUT WHAT GOOD IS IT IF I CAN'T CHANGE IT

YOU SAY I'M A HERALD, BUT I HAVE NO POWER TO HELP ANYONE.

I'M SICK OF IT ALL.

I WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE A WORD TO SAY, IF I WERE TO DISAPPEAR THIS INSTANT.

GINTAROU,

HUMANS REALLY ARE SELFISH...

TCH

BUT MAKOTO, HE'S NOT AROUND IS HE?

GOD?... OH RIGHT, GINTAROU-SAMA'S DIVINATION

REALLY?

IT'S OK, I'LL ASK GOD FOR HELP AGAIN OKAY?

OR RATHER, I'M THE MASTER OF THIS SHRINE!

LOOKS LIKE I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO BACK.

DAMNED IF I CARE IF MAKOTO GETS ANGRY!

HMMM?

IF WE CAN'T FIND GIN!

WE CAN'T FIND AKI-CHAN'S RING! WHAT DO WE DO?!

THE HELL, SHE'S TRYING TO MAKE ME DO THAT AGAIN?

CALM DOWN, MAKOTO.

OH NO, DAD! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!

SERVES HER RIGHT

I STILL CAN'T FIND GIN.

.....

DON'T WORRY, I'M SURE HE WILL BE BACK SOON. HE'S PROBABLY OUT ON A WALK OR SOMETHING.

I SAID HE WAS JUST A PLAIN OL' FOX!

EVEN THOUGH IT WAS MY FAULT THAT HIS DIVINA-TION WENT WRONG!

I WAS THE ONE WHO SAID NASTY HINGS TO GIN! I TOLD HIM I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM ANYMORE!!

REALLY?

YESTERDAY... I HAD A FIGHT WITH GIN...

BECAUSE HE SAID SOME NASTY THINGS...

THAT'S NOT IT.

NO,

MAKING ME OUT TO BE THE BAD GUY?

GINTAROU DISAPPEARED!

MAKO-TO...

BUT

I WANTED TO APOLO-GIZE...

EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT REALLY NEED HIS HELP.

I'VE BEEN SO SELFISH. DRAGGING HIM AROUND; SAYING TERRIBLE THINGS TO HIM.

BUT I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE THAT!!

I FORGOT WHAT HE WAS!!

BECAUSE HE WAS ALWAYS WITH ME SINCE I WAS LITTLE!

EVEN DAD CAN TELL HE'S THERE.

I CAN FEEL HIS WARM PRESENCE, YOU KNOW?

YOUR MOM AND YOUR GRAMPA WERE ABLE TO SEE HIM, BUT THAT'S NOT ALL,

YOU CAN'T EVEN SEE HIM.

HOW CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT GIN IS REAL, DAD?

OH COME ON, MAKOTO.

MAKOTO, YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE!

IF YOU THINK LIKE THAT, GINTAROU-SAMA WILL REALLY DISAPPEAR!

WHAT IF IT WAS ALL JUST IN MY HEAD AND GIN NEVER REALLY...

BUT IF YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT HE'S NOT REAL, HE MIGHT ACTUALLY DISAPPEAR.

BEING A HERALD OF GOD, HE NEEDS YOUR FAITH.

I BELIEVE IN GINTAROU-SAMA, AND THAT'S WHY HE'S HERE.

AND IN GOD'S STEAD, HE IS PROTECTING YOU AND EVERY-ONE ELSE.

YOU ARE GINTAROU-SAMA'S BRIDGE INTO OUR WORLD, SO DON'T THINK LIKE THAT.

I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD THING THAT YOU ASK GINTAROU-SAMA FOR HELP.

HAVE YOU WONDERED WHY ONLY YOU CAN SEE GINTAROU-SAMA?

IM GOING TO GO LOOK FOR GIN.

BECAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN FIND HIM!

THERE'S A KID WHO NEEDS HIM!

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

A BRIDGE...

I

.....

HE REALLY LOVES ORANGES!

OK DAD! MAKE SURE TO READY TONS OF ORANGES, OKAY?

DON'T COME HOME TOO LATE!

SO THAT'S WHAT GINTAROU-SAMA LIKES.

THANKS DAD!

GAA

WORTHLESS FOX!

WHY YOU'R GOING OFF AND MESSING WITH MY GARDEN!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

I ONLY HAVE AN ORANGE BUT...

IF YOU DON'T MIND, HELP YOURSELF

They certainly look alike...

That girl...

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?

"ONLY I CAN FIND GIN" SHE SAYS...

SUCH A CARELESS GIRL.

GU

TCH. WHAT A FRIVOLOUS MEMORY.

AH... I'M HUNGRY.

I SHOULDN'T BRING UP OLD MEMO-RIES THAT MAKE ME HUNGRY.

.....

WHAT THE HELL!

AHHHHH FUCK!

HEY, DUMMY.

GIN...

GINTAROH

YOU WON'T FIND ME UNDER THE SHRINE.

I ALREADY TOLD YOU,

TCH.

KEH.

STUPID GINTAROU! I WAS SO WORRIED! WHERE DID YOU GO?!

.....

GIN

YOU CAME BACK!

IT'S GINTAROU!

I WANT ORANGES, YOU HEAR?

LOADS OF IT.

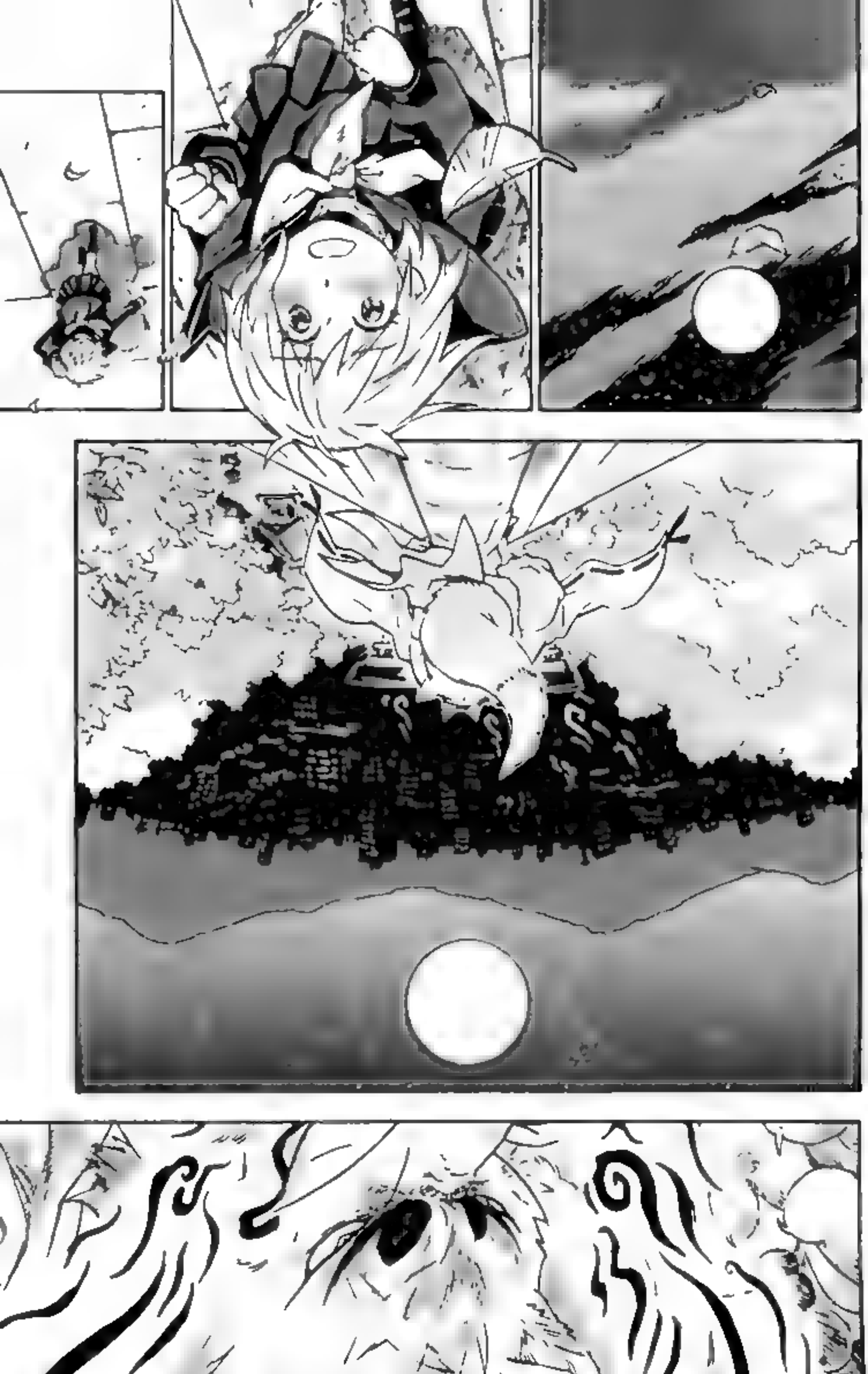
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO, GIN!

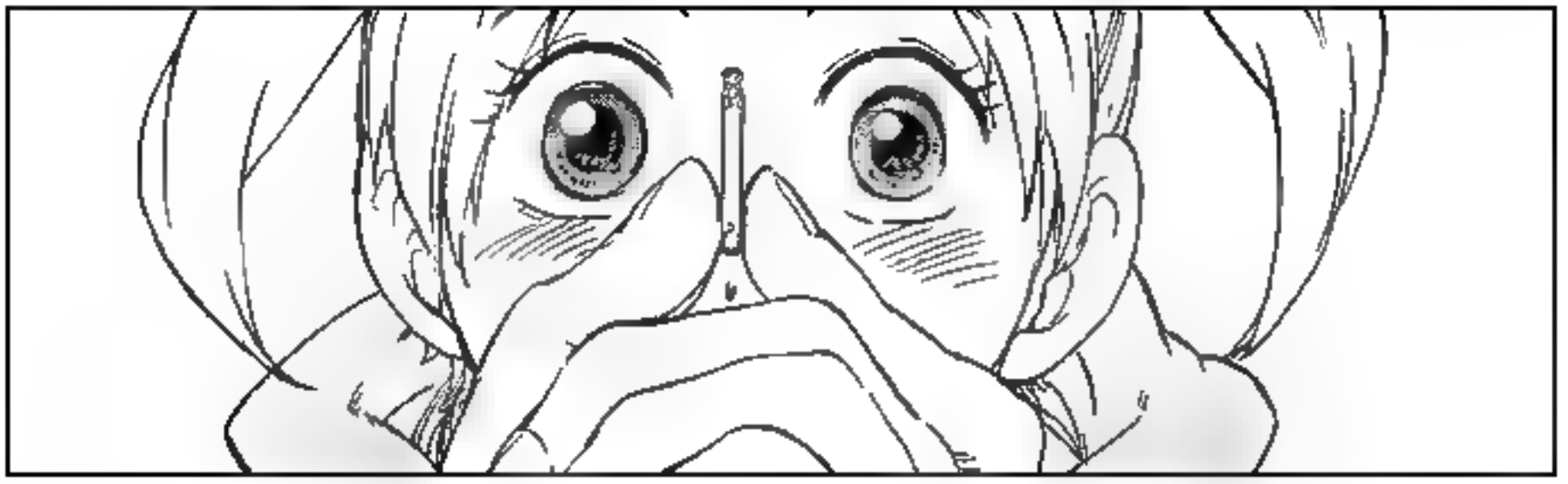
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT TO SAY...

I'M SORRY GIN, WELCOME BACK!

CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT MY HELP, CAN YOU?

TCH... LOOK AT YOU.





THANKS FOR YOUR HELP AKI-CHAN WAS REALLY GLAD, TOO.
IT WAS ALL THANKS TO YOU...
HMM?
...GIN

WITHIN THE 15 GENERATIONS OF THIS SHRINE'S ORACLES, YOU'RE THE YOUNGEST.
I'VE BEEN A HERALD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS, BUT,

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW THANKFUL YOU SHOULD BE THAT I'M HERE.
HAH! FINALLY REALIZED IT HAVE YOU?

BUT, YOU KNOW,
UNLIKE YOU, THEY TREATED ME AS AN ORACLE SHOULD TO A HERALD OF GOD.
FURTHERMORE, THEY ALL SAW ME AS THE REPRE-SENTATION OF GOD AND SHOWED ME RESPECT.
AND UNTIL NOW, THEY WERE ALL WELL INTO THEIR 30'S AND NONE OF THEM WERE AS MEDDLESOME AS YOU.

I'M QUITE FOND WITH THE WAY IT IS NOW.

THE ORANGES.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HUH"?

HUH?

.....

LIKE HELL I'D TELL YOU.

YOU KNOW, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CURIOUS,

WHY DO YO LIKE ORANGES SO MUCH?

WHY NOT?~

Ginta rou
Saeki shrine's fox
A fox with a foul mouth
And lazy to boot
Likes to eat fried tofu
and oranges.
350 years old

HENGAO
raw. online | trans. dorrus | edit. gntkgr

CHAPTER 2: A HERALD'S DUTIES AND A HUMAN'S NATURE

バサバサ

!

OH NO! I'M GOING TO BE LATE!

AH! GOOD MORNING GINTAROU!

HEY! MAKOTO! YOU'RE BEING TOO NOISY IN THE MORNING!

LATE AGAIN, HUH?

I KNOW, I KNOW.

I'M OFF!

CHAPTER 2: A HERALD'S DUTIES AND A HUMAN'S NATURE

SAEKI-SAN!

GIVEN THAT YOUR FORTUNE TELLING NEVER COMES TRUE.

WHAT A JOKE, TO CALL IT A "FORTUNE".

CAN YOU DO MY FORTUNE AGAIN?

SORRY... I DECIDED NOT TO DO THEM ANY-MORE.

ISN'T THAT GREAT?

IKEGAMI-SAN...

KO KI — N — N

AH, THE CHIME.

I WAS NEVER GOOD AT IT ANY-WAYS.

YOU'RE RIGHT...

UHMMM...

ARE YOU STILL TAKING CARE OF IT? IT'S JUST A STRAY.

YOU REALLY LIKE CATS DON'T YOU?

YOU'LL GET DUMPED IF YOU KEEP THAT UP

BUT I CAN'T KEEP IT AT HOME.

YUMI, ARE YOU FREE THIS SUNDAY?

I'M FREE, BUT I GOTTA FEED MY CAT

THERE'S GOING TO BE A FESTIVAL SO LET'S GO OUT

GIN!

COME ON, GINTAROU!

GINTAROU---

He's the fox herald to our Inari shrine.

This here is Gintarou.

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I can see him because I am this shrine's successor.

Normally, humans can't see him, but

IT'S NICE OUT AND ALL, LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY!

WHAT?

AH, HE'S AWAKE.

GI...

YOU'RE BEING ANNOYING!

WHY DON'T YOU GO TOGETHER WITH YOUR STUPIDITY INSTEAD OF ME?

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!

GI

YOU SAY THAT LIKE YOU DIDN'T LEAVE THE SHRINE ON YOUR WHIM LAST TIME!

I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT YOU COULDN'T LEAVE THE SHRINE!

I was thinking we could go out today, but...

It seems that Gin couldn't be bothered to go outside for several hundreds of years and simply stayed [redacted] the shrine all this time.

SAEKI TATSUO, 43 YEARS OLD

I-I'M PLENTY SATISFIED JUST WATCHING TATSUO CARRY ON WITH HIS DAY--

I WON'T!

COME ON!

L"L"L"

L"L"...

THAT'S NOT FAIR, MAKOTO, ALWAYS BRINGING UP ORANGES.

DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE THEM?

I KNOW A PLACE THAT HAS TONS OF ORANGES--

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO OUTSIDE ON A NICE DAY?

NOT THAT I'D GO OUTSIDE EVEN IF IT WAS A BAD DAY.

THIS KIND OF DAY IS THE BEST FOR SLEEPING, YOU KNOW?

IT'S BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY THAT WE SHOULD GO OUT

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BUSY.

ALL YOU DO IS LAZE AROUND ALL DAY STRETCHING AND YAWNING.

IT'S JUST A SUPERMARKET, THOUGH.

THAT'S SETTLED! LET'S GO!

LOADS, YOU SAY...

He's a weird fox spirit who prefers oranges over fried tofu.

DATE?

HEHEHE, A DATE WITH GIN!

COME ON GIN, HURRY!

HEY, MAKOTO!

BUT STILL...

BECAUSE THEY CAN'T SEE ME

HEY, IF YOU KEEP TALKING TO ME, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO LOOK AT YOU FUNNY.

JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...

ACTUALLY, THERE IS A FESTIVAL TODAY.

DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT!

HOW RUDE! I HAVE FRIENDS!

I JUST WANTED TO SHOW YOU WHAT IT IS LIKE!

YOU KNEW AND YOU STILL BROUGHT ME ALONG...

YOU DON'T GOT ANY FRIENDS?

OUR TOWN IS SMALL, BUT WE LIKE TO KEEP OUR OLD TRADITIONS ALIVE.

HAHA! THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE PART OF THE PARADE.

THERE IS ALSO AN ERA FILM STUDIO HERE, SO WE GET LOTS OF SIGHTSEEING VISITORS--

I SEE SAMURAIS OVER THERE.

OH----?

THEY DON'T QUITE HAVE IT RIGHT THOUGH.

TATSUO LIKES THAT SHOW.

A WHAT?

IT'S TATSUGOROU FROM "TATSUGOROU AND THE 7 APPARITIONS!"

WOAH--!

A POPULAR ERA PLAY.

DAD'S GOING TO BE IN IT, TOO.

THE PARADE IS GOING TO GO THROUGH THAT MAIN STREET OVER THERE.

THEY'RE GOING TO START SOON!

THE ACTORS ARE COMING OUT, TOO.

LET'S GO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK!

NOPE.

DIDN'T CHANGE ONE BIT

I SHOULD KNOW THE FAMOUS AREAS OF OUR TOWN AS WELL.

H...HEY!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

TODAY IS GIN'S SOCIETY LEARNING DAY--

OH, THE CASTLE--

IT'S STILL HERE, HUH?

IS IT NOSTALGIC?

RIGHT?

SOCIETY LEARNING, YOU SAY...

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE CATS HERE?

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MANY PEOPLE COME BY THIS PLACE.

EVERYONE'S PROBABLY AT THE PARADE.

HAHA. HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.

HEY GIN, DO YOU KNOW THAT PERSON?

WELL, HE'S OUR TOWN'S HERO.

He killed his father's rival in combat.

And was bestowed with great honor by the feudal lord and became successful.

And afterwards, he worked diligently for his country and people.

HMM?

HM? ISN'T THAT...

I DON'T REMEMBER SUCH TRIVIAL THINGS FROM THE PAST

AH, DID YOU KNOW HIM?

REALLY--

Hyoko Hyoko

SORRY, I'M LATE--

I BROUGHT YOU GUYS YOUR FOOD!

CATS

HAHA, AREN'T YOU GUYS LOOKING CHEERY.

NYA

NYA

AHMM...

DON'T FEED THE CATS.

HEY, IS THAT ALRIGHT?

WOW! YOU REALLY LIKE CATS, DON'T YOU?

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU LIKED CATS SO MUCH, IKEGAMI-SAN.

SAEKI!!

EAT LOTS--

WHAT?!

DIVINATION.

WANT ME TO DO IT?

I KNOW I DON'T LOOK IT!

DID YOU MAKE UP WITH HER?

WELL... SOMETHING LIKE THAT

WHAT'S WITH HER?

IT'S BECAUSE THE FORTUNE WAS WRONG... WELL, IT WAS MY FAULT IN THE FIRST PLACE

SH... SHUT IT!

BUT WHAT'S WRONG, GIN?

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU

I'LL TRY TO FIGURE SOMETHING OUT MYSELF.

NO, IT'S FINE! YOU DON'T HAVE TO.

DAMN..

TALKING TO HERSELF

WHAT'S SHE DOING?

HAH!

THANKS, GINTAROU.

DIDN'T HE JUST RECENTLY LEFT HOME ON A WHIM?

LIKE WE WOULD BE SO IMMATURE AS TO BICKER AND SEPARATE! WE ARE HERALDS YOU KNOW.

YOU MEAN KINJOROU?

BY THE WAY, WHY DID YOUR PARTNER LEAVE, GIN?

YOU SAY HE LEFT, BUT YOU GUYS HAD AN ARGUMENT, DIDN'T YOU?

GIN AND KIN...

WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU AREN'T EVEN A FULL-FLEDGED PRIEST YET!

RATHER, MY TROUBLES ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH YOU.

WHAT'S WITH THAT?

IF YOU'RE TROUBLED BY ANYTHING, LET ME KNOW, OK?

SAY, GIN,

HAAH?

EVER SINCE KINJIROU LEFT, YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN ALONE, HAVEN'T YOU?

GINTAROU, AREN'T YOU LONELY?

あたえるな!!

.....

.....

REALLY?!

WELL... I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S TROUBLING ME RIGHT NOW...

YOU'VE ONLY GOT ME TO TALK TO, SO I THOUGHT I'D LEND YOU MY EARS...

NOT HER, THE FATTY.

THE CAT?

HE'S GOTTEN A LITTLE PLUMP

LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE EATING WELL -

YOU MEAN IKEGAMI-SAN?

HEY, THAT GIRL OVER THERE...

SORRY...

EVEN THOUGH I'M SO ATTACHED TO YOU, I CAN'T KEEP YOU.

AH...

BUT EVEN SO, I WOULDN'T MIND HAVING YOU AT HOME.

YOU SMELL, YOUR LEGS HURT, YOU'RE FAT, YOU'RE NOT OVERLY CUTE.

BUT OUR APARTMENT DOESN'T ALLOW PETS--

TH-THAT'S... A TERRIBLE JOKE, GIN...

THAT'S AWFUL, GIN... TEASING ME LIKE THAT--

FOOL, YOU THINK I'D SAY THIS IN JEST?

WHAT?

THAT CAT WILL DIE BY THE END OF THE DAY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW OR WHY, BUT THE CAT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LEFT IN THIS WORLD.

ANIMALS ARE SIMPLER THAN HUMANS, SO I CAN TELL WITH GREATER CERTAINTY.

BUT IF WE KNOW ABOUT IT, CAN'T WE...

IT'S JUST THE WAY IT IS.

LEAVE IT ALONE--

ISN'T IT FINE FOR JUST ONE DAY?!

WHY DON'T WE CATCH IT AND WATCH OVER IT FOR A DAY?

DON'T YOU EVEN THINK ABOUT IT.

IT MIGHT DIE BECAUSE OF YOU TRYING TO PREVENT ITS DEATH, YOU KNOW.

BUT WE WON'T KNOW IF WE DON'T TRY!

YEAH, BUT STILL...

THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT DOING SOMETHING WILL COME TO ANY GOOD.

WHAT I'M SEEING ISN'T THE FUTURE, MY POWERS DON'T GO TO THAT EXTENT.

.....

EVEN IF IT'S JUST A CAT A LIFE IS ON THE LINE HERE!

ARE YOU THAT HEARTLESS, GINTAROU?!

IT'S MY FAULT FOR BRINGING IT UP IN THE FIRST PLACE, MY BAD.

I STILL THINK WE SHOULD JUST LEAVE IT BE--

Ha

WHAT'S WITH THAT ATTITUDE?!

IT'S ABOUT WHEN KINJIROU WAS STILL AROUND.

.....

SO LISTEN WELL!

ALRIGHT, I'M GOING TO TELL YOU AN OLD STORY.

HMM?

DID YOU SEE HER, KINJIROU?

THERE WAS A GIRL WHO CAME BY THE SHRINE DAY AFTER DAY...

THAT GIRL—

AH. THE GIRL WHO WISHED FOR THE SUCCESS OF HER FIANCE'S VENGEANCE—

RIGHT?

IT DOES YOU NO GOOD YOU KNOW

I TOLD YOU NOT TO, DIDN'T I?

I KNOW, BUT...

YOU LOOKED INTO IT AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

HEY—

BUT WE KNOW THAT HER FIANCE WILL NOT RETURN.

THAT GIRL...

.....

SHE HAD NO DOUBT OF HIS SUCCESS AND WOULD NOT SWAY.

"STOP YOUR FIANCE FROM PURSUING HIS VENGEANCE ANY FURTHER."

THAT KINJIROU WENT AND TOLD THE PRIEST ABOUT IT.

BUT THE GIRL WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT

THEN, WHAT HAPPENED?

JUST AS WE... AS KINJIROU SAW, SHE WAS RUINED BY HIS PATH OF VENGEANCE.

THE MAN FULFILLED HIS VENGEANCE, BECAME DISTINGUISHED, AND ABANDONED HER---

SHE, IN DESPAIR, THREW AWAY HER OWN LIFE.

DECISION FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

IT'S NOT IN OUR ROLE TO MESS WITH FATE.

EITHER WAY IT'S POINTLESS TRYING TO GO AROUND SAVING THIS AND THAT.

WASN'T IT GOOD ENOUGH THAT THE MAN WAS ABLE TO BECOME DISTINGUISHED THAT WAS PROPARLY FOR THE BEST

KNOWING THAT ONCE I HEARD IT, I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE IT ALONE...

WHY WOULD YOU KNOWINGLY TELL ME SUCH A STORY...

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNOW HOW I'D FEEL!!

KIJITAROU IS DEFINITELY MUCH COOLER THAN GIN!!!

WHAT'S WITH YOU, TRYING TO BE ALL COOL! YOU'RE JUST RUNNING AWAY BECAUSE YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING!

R!...

SCARY...

YOU'RE JUST BEING DIFFICULT!

YOU ACTUALLY WANTED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU GINTAROU?!

DON'T THINK ANYTHING IS GOING TO CHANGE BECAUSE YOU WANT IT TO.

NOT EVERYONE HAS THE STRENGTH TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR SITU-ATION YOU KNOW!

MAKOTO!

I'LL SEE YOU LATER MI-CHAN.

BYE~

DON'T WORRY, I'LL COME BACK OK?

I'M SORRY, MI-CHAN.

BUT I CAN'T TAKE YOU HOME WITH ME.

.....

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

IKEGAMI-SAN!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

PLEASE LISTEN, I'M BEGGING YOU THAT CAT...

WHY ARE YOU STILL STUCK UP ON THIS FARCE OF YOURS?

CUT THE CRAP!

I MEAN, YOU WERE YELLING AT NOTHING BY YOURSELF! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?

ARE YOU STILL GOING ON WITH THAT FUTURE TELLING NON-SENSE?!

HE JUST MIGHT DIE BY THE END OF THIS DAY!

HURRY AND CATCH THAT CAT

YOU HAVE TO WATCH OVER HIM TODAY!

YOU'RE RIGHT! THEY'RE FULL OF SHITS!

--YOUR PREDICTIONS ARE ALL FULL OF SHIT!

IT'S ALL FAKE!

.....

IT DEFINITELY WON'T COME TRUE AT ALL!

COME ON, LET'S GO OVER THERE BY THE RIVER!

.....

...

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I BELIEVE YOU OR ANYTHING!

THAT CAT'S LEG IS HURT. HE CAN'T WALK WELL--

LET'S GO!

THAT FOOL... WHAT DOES SHE THINK SHE IS GONNA DO?

YOU'RE TOO CLOSE TO THE RIVER--

MI-CHAN

OH NO!

!!

IT'S DAN-GEROUS, SO COME OVER HERE--

WAAAH!

MAKO-TO!

SAEKI!

Ah.

ゴゴゴゴ

I'M SORRY.

MAN... THIS SUCKS!

.....

OW OW OW!

WH- WHERE IS MI- CHAN?

ARE YOU GIRLS OK?

HAHA

Ha
Ha
A
Ha
Ha

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, MI-CHAN!

WELL, WHAT SHOULD I DO? SHOULD I TAKE HIM HOME?

SORRY...

IT'S YOUR SHITTY FORTUNE TELLING'S FAULT--

UGH, I'M A MESS.

IKE-GAMI-SAN...

I'LL TAKE HIM HOME LIKE YOU SAID, NOT THAT YOUR FORTUNES ARE TRUE OR ANY-THING--

...

HEY

HEY...

IS THAT GUY...

SHOUHEI...

YOU'RE JUST FAKING!!

YOU DID THIS YOU IDIOT!!!

?

.....

SHUT YOUR TRAP! AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT'S WITH YOUR FACE?!

IT'S TOO EARLY FOR A SWIMMING, ISN'T IT? WHAT WERE YOU DOING, STUPID?

HMP!

HAH?

I'LL TAKE HIM HOME--

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I'M SORRY, ARE YOU OK?

MI-CHAN

WELL, IT WASN'T REALLY THAT...

WHAT'S WITH THE CHANGE OF MIND, I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT HIM?

HEY, THAT FAT CAT YOU GOT THERE--

MY HOME IS A TEMPLE!

LIKE I'D CARE THAT YOU LIVE AT A TEMPLE!

IF IT'S JUST ON THE TEMPLE GROUNDS, IT'S FINE, SO I CAME TO GET HIM.

YOU IDIOT...

I THOUGHT YOU WOULD DISLIKE ME FOR IT, SO I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOW YOU MY PLACE--

REALLY?!

I WANT TO HELP TOO!

BUT WE'LL FIND PEOPLE FOR THEM TO STAY WITH--

WELL, I CAN'T KEEP ALL OF THEM BUT...

RIGHT?

I WON'T BE CONTENT WITH JUST A SINGLE BOX OF ORANGES. DAMN-

HA

MAN... HOW MANY ARE THERE?

.....

NYA

WHAT A PAIN...

LOOKS LIKE I'M GOING TO BE STUCK IN THIS, TOO.

THANKS.. AND SORRY ABOUT EARLIER--

.....

I'M TOTALLY GOING TO MISS THE PARADE, TOO---

ARE YOU REALLY INTERESTED IN SEEING THAT DUMB PARADE?

I'M GOING TO NEED SOME NEW CLOTHES.

I'LL HAVE TO GO HOME TO CHANGE CLOTHES.

BEFORE WE TAKE MI-CHAN TO SHOUHEI'S HOUSE--

GINTAROU, YOU KNOW...

ISN'T IT FINE IF WE TRY OUR BEST WHERE WE CAN?

I DON'T WANT THAT KIND OF EXCITEMENT IN MY LIFE.

HAHA, SORRY--

ARE YOU STUPID? AT WORST, YOU AND THAT GIRL COULD'VE DIED YOU KNOW?

THANK GOOD-NESS.

WELL... IF THEY TAKE CARE OF THE CAT, I'M SURE IT'LL BE FINE.

YOU GOTTA HOLD CATS LIKE THIS--

UGH IT'S HEAVY

HEY! YOU CAN'T HOLD HER LIKE THAT

GINTAROU, IS MI-CHAN GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?

I'M SURE GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN IF WE TRY OUR BEST.

.....

I JUST CAN'T SIT BY AND WATCH WHEN I COULD POSSIBLY DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.

Just maybe...

Try your best. huh?

WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE ABOUT THE PARADE BUT...

IF TATSUO IS GOING TO BE IN IT, MAYBE I'LL GO WATCH.

COME ON!

WE GOTTA HURRY!

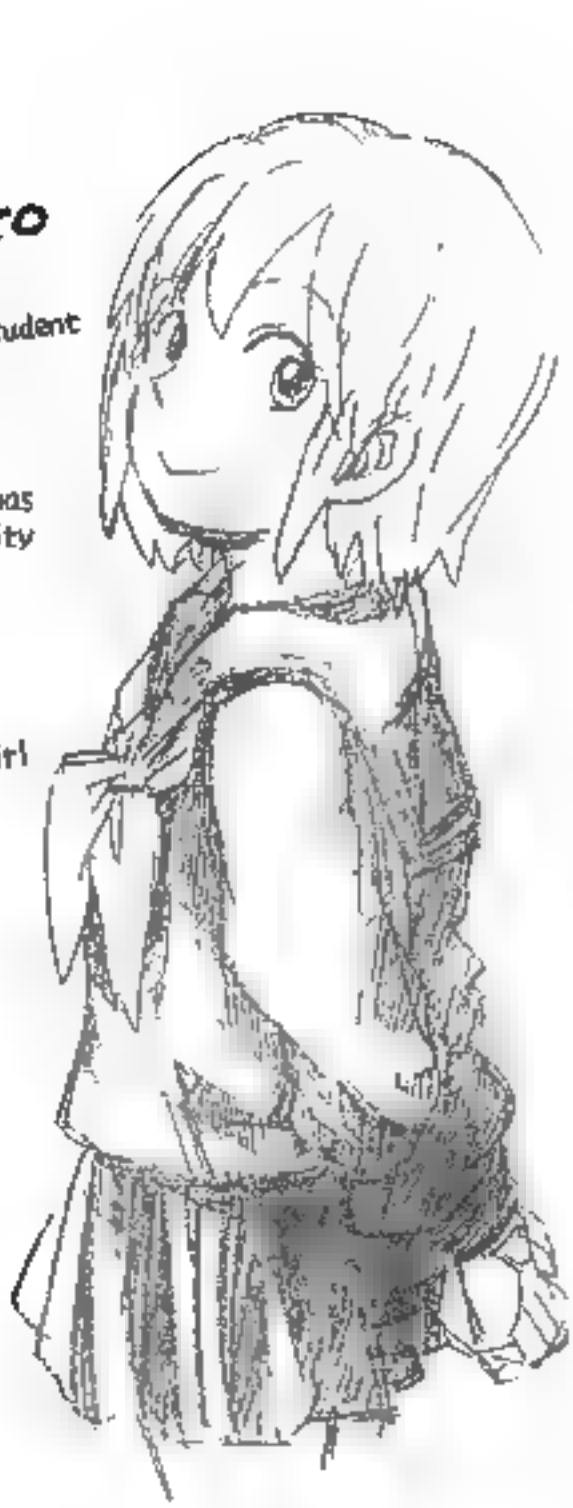
WE'RE GOING TO MISS THE PARADE!

Saeki Makoto

16 year-old high school student

Scatterbrain but has
a determined personality

According to Gin,
a loud girl
pretends to be a good girl
meddlesome
foolish girl



HENGAO
raw. online | trans. dorrus | edit. gntkgr

第3話　譲り合うように
GOOD MORNING, MAKOTO -CHAN.
GOOD MORNING!

CHAPTER 3 MAKING COMPROMISES

My name is Saeki Makoto, and my family runs this shrine.
IT MUST BE TOUGH DOING CHORES EVERY MORN NG.
NOT AT ALL. TO BE HONEST, THIS IS ALL I CAN DO TO HELP AROUND HERE.
Small as we are, this shrine has been here since the Edo period.
Enshrined here is the god of harvest.
GOOD MORNING, MAKOTO ONEE-CHAN.
MORNING AKI-CHAN, SA-CCHAN.
Because our shrine is small,
we manage the shrine with just the two of us.

ナー

COME ON! YOU'LL BE LATE IF YOU DON T HURRY!

OK!

BYE BYE, MAKOTO ONEE -CHAN'

TO MAKE SURE OUR PRESENTATION FOR SCHOOL GOES WELL!

WE CAME TO MAKE AN OFFER NG BEFORE WE GO TO SCHOOL

N THAT CASE, I'LL PRAY FOR YOU G RLS AS WELL!

HEY!

OH'Z

MAKOTO!

And...

YOU'LL BE LATE TOO, YOU KNOW.

This is our shrine's herald, Gintarou.

The three of us live here in this shrine with him.

AH!

WHAT'S WRONG, MAKOTO?

OH, ISN'T IT TIME FOR YOU TO GO TO SCHOOL?

NO WAY! WHAT TIME IS IT?!

But as this shrine's successor, I'm able to see him.

Because Gintarou is a herald of god, normal people can't see him.

I'M SORRY ABOUT ALL THE RUCKUS.

GOOD MORNING.

GOOD MORNING.

NO NO IT'S LIVELY IF ANYTHING.

OH, YOU DON'T LEAVE FOR SCHOOL YET?

HERE DAD, I'LL TRADE YOU!

Dad married into the family, so he can't see Gintarou, just like anyone else

YES

OUR HERALD SEEMS TO LIKE THEM, YOU SEE.

OH? ORANGES?

LOUD AS ALWAYS...

HRRRRR

And so our shrine is home to just a single herald.

Heralds are suppose to come in pairs just like the statues you see at our shrine.

But apparently, Gintarou's partner left about a hundred years ago...

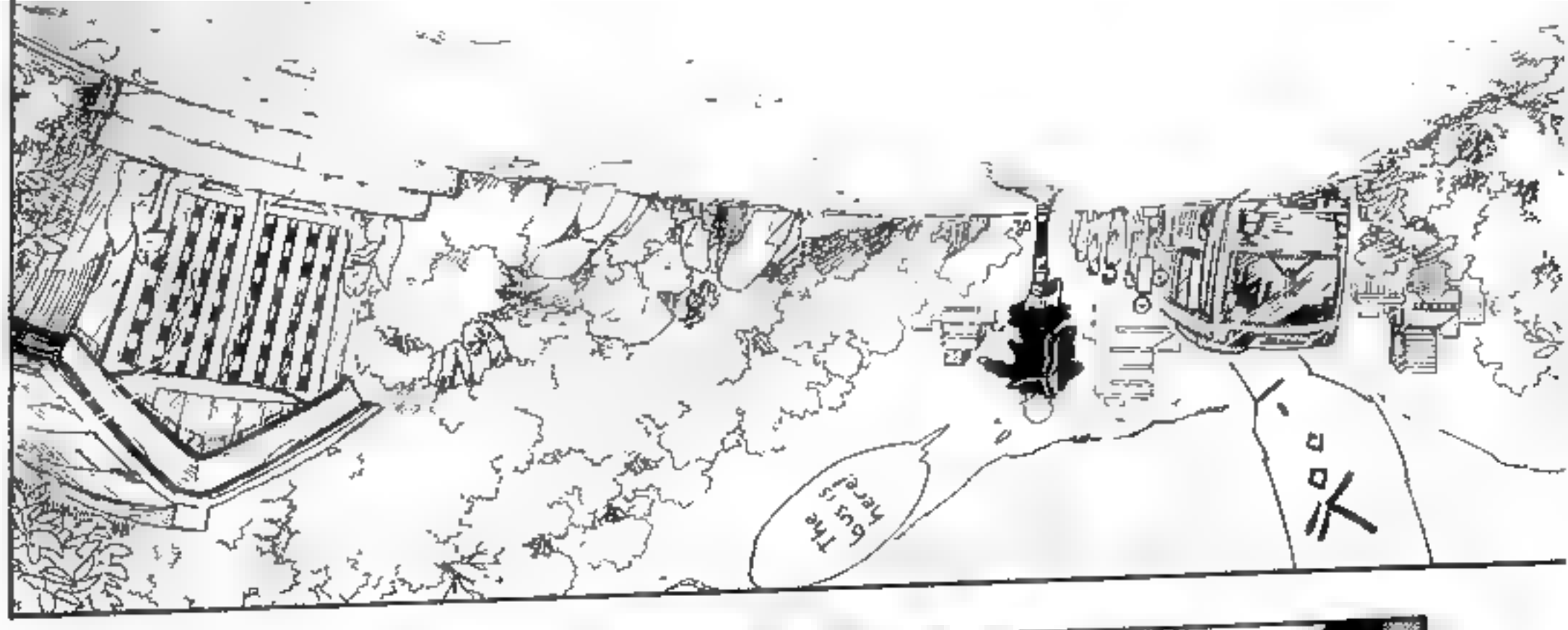
I'M OFF!

I'll save those oranges for later

Whatever, I'm going back to sleep

Even so, a shrine's importance comes from the people who visit it.

So despite our circumstances, our shrine is blessed just like any other.


The bus is here!

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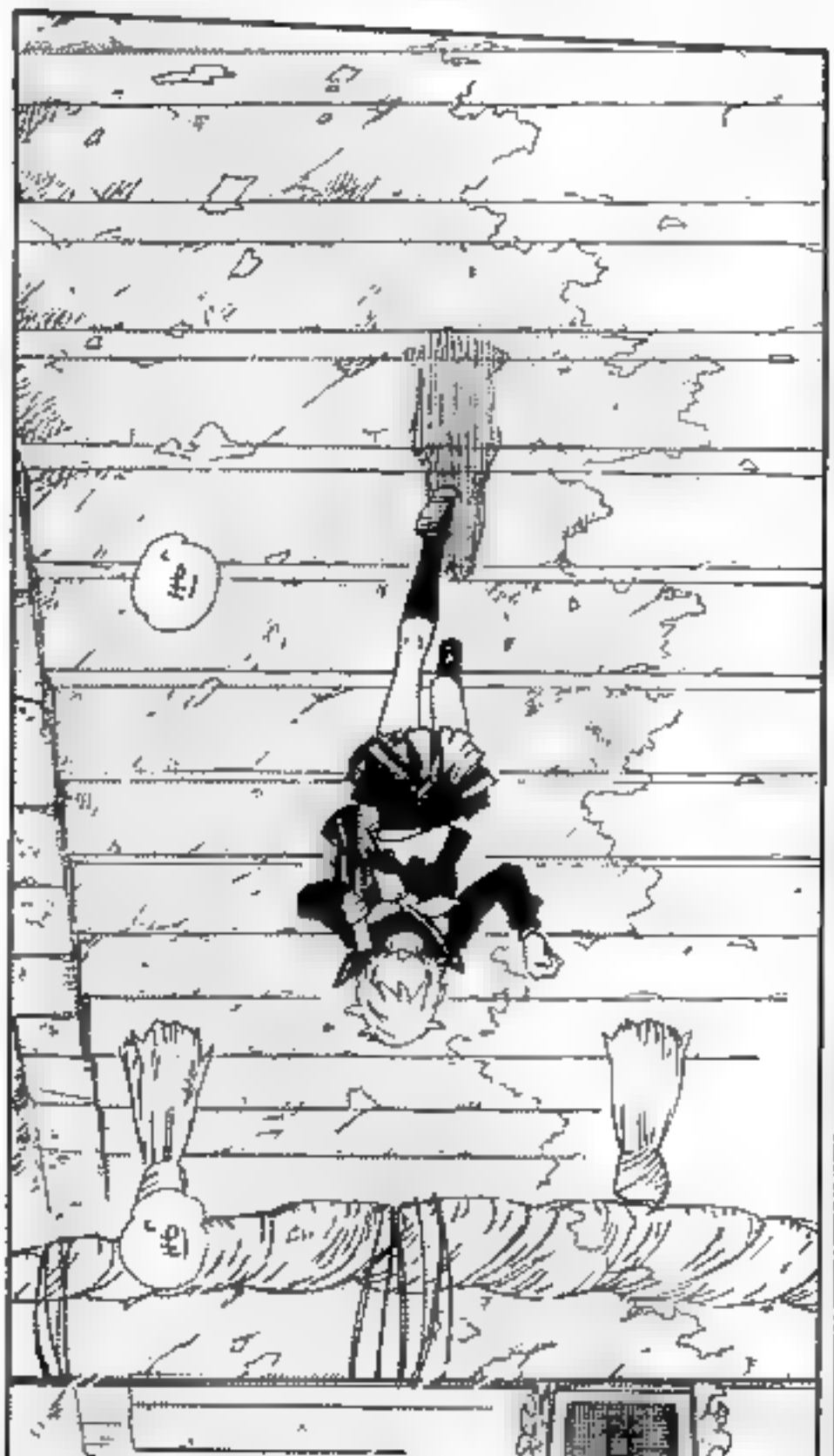
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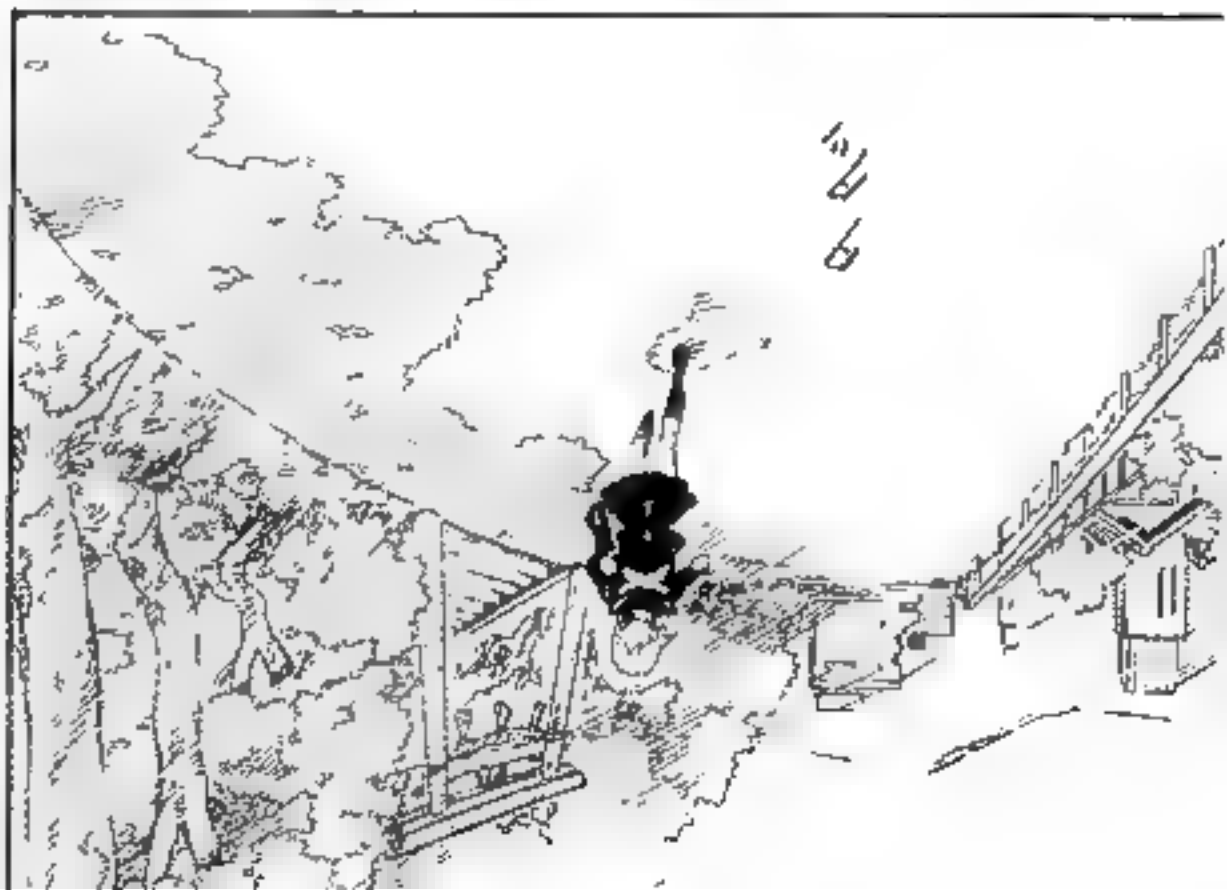
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SAEKI -SAN~

ARE YOU FREE THIS WEEKEND?

WE HAVE SOMETH NG WE WANT TO ASK YOU.

WEL...

OH BOY, AGAIN?...

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IT'S POINT-LESS!

DON'T BOTHER!

WE'RE SUPPOSE TO BE FORMING TEAMS TO PLAY A GAME!

HURRY UP AND FORM INTO GROUPS OF 6!

AND BECAUSE OF HER I ENDED UP HAVING A TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE!

YUMI -CHAN...

HER FORTUNE READINGS ARE TOTALLY WRONG YOU KNOW!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT YUMI?

I DIDN'T! I'M JUST TAKING CARE OF IT FOR A WHILE.

AND I HEARD YOU GOT A CAT TOO

DIDN'T YOU END UP MAKING UP WITH SHOUHEI AFTER ALL?

SPEAKING OF HOW IS MII -CHAN?

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GIRLS DOING?!

HE'S FINE...

I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE.

IKEGAMI -SAN...

SORRY! BUT WASN'T THIS INDEPENDENT TIME?

HAHA, SORRY...

DON'T BE SUCH A STICK IN THE MUD, FUNEBASHI~

...WHAT DID YOU SAY?

池上

ARE A REAL BOTHER TO EVERY-ONE.

PEOPLE LIKE YOU WHO HAVE TROUBLE GETTING ALONG WITH OTHERS....

I KNOW AN HONOR STUDENT LIKE YOURSELF MUST LOOK DOWN ON PEOPLE LIKE ME, BUT AREN'T YOU BEING A LITTLE BIT TOO JUDGE-MENTAL?

WHAT'S WITH YOU SUDDENLY? ARE YOU TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME?

...

. WHAT A DIFFICULT PERSON

I'M SICK OF HER, LET'S GO.

YOU THINK YOURSELF SO HIGH AND MIGHTY, DON'T YOU, VICE-PRES.DENT?

KEGAMI -SAN.

YES!

AND I WON'T GO AS FAR AS CALLING IT A FRAUD, BUT

I MUST ASK YOU TO STOP TRICKING YOUR FELLOW CLASSMATES WITH YOUR "FORTUNE TELLING".

SHOULDN'T YOU BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHO YOU BECOME FRIENDS WITH?

えっ

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, YOUR FAMILY RAN A SHRINE IS THAT CORRECT?

I'M SURE YOU MUST REALLY ENJOY BEING THE CENTER OF ATTENTION

ALSO

IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHO YOU ASSOCIATE YOURSELF WITH.

...NO.

I APOLOGIZE.

WHAT?!

WAIT...

HUH?

SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...

GINTAROU!

ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

BUT DAD'S OUT FOR A CEREMONY! AND DON T CALL IT COMPLAINING. I'M ASK NG YOU FOR ADVICE

GO TALK TO TATSUO ABOUT IT!

I'M NOT HERE TO BE YOUR PERSONAL COUNSELOR YOU KNOW!

WHY DO I HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR COM-PLA NTS?

QUIT YOUR YAMMERING!

HYPOCRITICAL FOOL!

WELL, NO USE BEING UPSET OVER IT!

YEP!

LET'S JUST FORGIVE AND FORGET AND CHEER UP!

I MEAN I GET THAT FROM HER PERSPECTIVE I MUST LOOK LIKE A FAILURE

BUT WHY DID SHE HAVE TO GO AND SAY ALL THOSE HORRIBLE THINGS

THIS IS WHY I CAN I HANDLE WOMEN. LET ME SLEEP ALREADY

SO ANYWAYS, AS I WAS SAYING. FUNEBASHI-SAN'S FAMILY IS THE HEAD OF A TEA CEREMONY SCHOOL, HER DAD'S A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS AND SHE HERSELF IS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE SCHOOL'S STUDENT COUNCIL.

SHE'S REALLY SMART AND SHES REALLY BEAUTIFUL TOO. BUT SHE IS JUST SO HARD TO GET ALONG WITH

I MUCH PREFER PEOPLE LIKE THAT G.R. WHO AREN'T RESTRAINED TO SUCH DELUSIONS.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO OTHER PEOPLE YOU PUT UP SUCH A FACADE

YOU HUMANS HOLD NO RESERVATION WHEN PRAYING ABOUT YOUR TROUBLES AT THE SHRINE

YOU'RE WRONG

IS THAT SO?

YOU'RE DEFINITELY WRONG

THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL

YOU'RE JUST FRUSTRATED THAT SHE BAD MOUTHED YOU.

WHAT?!

QUIT THE "GOOD KID" ACT AND SAY WHAT YOU REALLY FEEL.

WELCOME BACK, DAD

SO HOT!

EVEN IN THIS WEATHER, DOING A GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY IS TOUGH.

I TOLD YOU ALREADY, I DON'T CARE ONE BIT!

I MEAN, I CAN'T HELP IT. NO MATTER WHAT I DO, IT JUST COMES OUT LIKE THAT!

I'M BACK~

CAN YOU TELL? DID I GET SLIMMER?

Come on, tell me!

ANYWAYS, DAD'S BEEN TRYING TO LOSE A BIT OF WEIGHT.

WHAT DOES GINTAROU-SAMA THINK?

WELL...

ARE YOU SAYING DAD IS SPECIAL?

SPEAKING OF WHICH, TATSUO IS CERTAINLY SOMETHING.

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANOTHER HUMAN LIKE HIM.

WHAT IS IT? IS GINTAROU-SAMA HERE?

WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?

EVEN I CAN'T TELL WHAT HE'S THINKING AT ALL.

Yay~

...

OH RIGHT! I RECEIVED SOME MELON FOR THE CEREMONY. DOES GINTAROU-SAMA LIKE MELON?

Let's eat together!

HAVE A GOOD DAY, HIWAKO-SAMA.

GOOD MORNING YUMI-CHAN!

HEY SAEKI~

HAHA...

MUST BE NICE, BEING PART OF THE UPPER CLASS AND ALL.

IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IF SHE APOLOGIZES, THOUGH.

I DON'T THINK SO.

NOT THAT I CARE IF YOU WANT TO TRY AND GET ALONG WITH HER

...

SEEING HER LIKE THAT, IT'S NO WONDER WHERE SHE GOT HER ATTITUDE.

I MEAN WE WERE SCREWING AROUND FOR SURE, BUT DID SHE HAVE TO GO THAT FAR?

WELL... LET'S TRY TO GET ALONG...

GOOD MORN NG, SAEKI-SAN.

UM... FUNEBASH -SAN, DON'T YOU TH NK IT MIGHT BE BEST TO APOLOG ZE TO YUMI-CHAN?

フイッ

...

THE BELL IS GOING TO RING SOON WE D BEST GET TO CLASS.

...

WE ARE ALREADY H GH SCHOOL STUDENTS...

WE CAN T FOOL AROUND AS WE PLEASE ANYMORE...

WHY SHOULD I? DO YOU THINK I DID SOMETH NG WRONG?

NO, BUT...

BUT AS STUDENTS, WE HAVE CERTAIN EXPECTATIONS IN REGARDS TO OUR BEHAVIOR.

I KNOW I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE TOO HARSH ON HER.

ぎんぎつね 1

THAT'S WEIRD. IT'S NOT LIKE HER TO FORGET

I'M SORRY...

THAT'S ODD.

I ASKED YOU TO COLLECT IT FROM EVERY-ONE AND BRING IT ME, DIDN'T I?

FUNEBASH.

HEY YOU GUYS, ONLY YOUR CLASS HASN'T TURNED IN THE ENGLISH ASSIGNMENTS. WHERE IS IT?

Y..YES!

クス クス

WHAT...

WHAT?

WAI-SAN! DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT YOU'D DO IT INSTEAD?

DID I SAY THAT?

THANK YOU I APPRECI-ATE IT

YOU'RE BUSY RIGHT? I'LL COLLECT IT AND HAND IT TO THE TEACHER

IF I REMEMBER CORRECTLY, DIDN'T IWAI-SAN...

But she never did collect it, did she.

WHAT. ?

DON'T BLAME ME FOR YOUR MISTAKES, FUNEBASH ~

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

ガラッ

MAKOTO -CHAN...

I'M PRETTY SURE I HEARD YOU SAY.

W...WAIT...

AREN T THOSE G RLS PRETTY CLOSE WITH KEGAM -SAN?

YOU REALLY PISSED OFF IKEGAMI-SAN NOT JUST LONG AGO TOO.

WHAT?

EH?

YOU SHOULDN T GET NVOLVED N THIS.

HEY.

ギャハハ

ダダーッ

THOSE GIRLS ARE SCARY . WE'RE BETTER OFF IGNORING IT. .

I CAN T STAND IT EITHER BUT...

AND YOU JUST STARTED GETTING ALONG WITH KEGAM -SAN DIDN T YOU? YOU WOULDN T WANT TO RUIN THAT RIGHT?

AH...

what're you thinking, gnoring a k.tsune

HEY, I'M TALK-ING TO YOU.

YOU RE HOME LATE.

MAKOTO.

DID SOMETH.NG HAPPEN AGA N?

WHAT S WRONG? YOU RE LOOKING DOWN.

SAY GIN, I...

I'M REALLY A HYPOCRITE, AREN'T I?

IT D BE N CE IF EVERYONE GOT ALONG...

BUT FUNEBASHI-SAN .S JUST TOO TOUGH ON EVERYONE, INCLUDING HERSELF...

SHE S A LITTLE D.FFICULT TO GET ALONG WITH, BUT SHE S A GOOD PERSON...

DON T BE STUPID.

SORRY G N, I M COMPLA N NG TO YOU AGAIN...

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I WANT THAT TO HAPPEN...

AND I MEAN ALL OF IT.

COMPLAIN AS MUCH AS YOU D L KE.

SOMETIMES, I JUST WANT TO IGNORE IT AND LET IT HAPPEN AS IT MAY...

I CAN T HELP BUT FEE. L.KE IT S TOO MUCH OF A BOTHER

IT'S FINE.

BUT DON T YOU HATE IT WHEN PEOPLE COME TO COMPLA N ABOUT THE R WORR.ES?

BUT BECAUSE I M HERE AND BECAUSE YOU CAN SEE ME YOU HAVE A HARD TIME BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF

AND YOU DON T RELY 'N TA"SUO FOR YOUR TROUBLES EITHER

I KNOW YOU HAVE A LOT ON YOUR M ND.

DON T PAY IT ANY MIND. YOU SHOULD SAY WHAT YOU FEE..

H.S PLACE EXISTS PRECISELY FOR THAT PURPOSE, DOESN'T IT?

...OKAY...

...

I'LL JUST PRETEND NOT TO BE LISTENING.

WHAT S WRONG YUMI -CHAN?

I HAD A FIGHT WITH MY PARENTS~

I ASKED AROUND, BUT EVERYONE'S SAYING NO~

DO YOU THINK I COULD STAY OVER TON GHT?

Tomorrow's a weekend anyway.

SAEKI~

THANK GOD YOU RE STILL HERE.

YAY!

...SURE.

WELL IT SHOULD BE FINE. IT S A GOOD CHANCE TO TALK TO HER ABOUT FUNEBASHI -SAN

...

IT S GO NG TO BE FUN~

I LL GO GET MY BACKPACK~

OH...

IT S JUST SAEKI...

She cared me

HUH?

WHY WEREN T YOU KEEPING A LOOK OUT?

BUT

FUNEBASHI -SAN?

SAEKI-SAN, WE'RE A LITTLE BUSY R.GHT NOW.

I'M SORRY, BUT PLEASE GO LSE ANOTHER BATHROOM.

HJH? WHAT?

WHAT D YOU THINK YOU'RE DO NG GOING OFF ON YOUR OWN?

WHY DON'T YOU TH NK ABOUT WHAT KIND OF POSITION YOU RE N RIGHT NOW?

WAH

DD

YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH ME, NOT SAEKI-SAN, R GHT?

I LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY,

BUT MUST YOU INSIST ON A PLACE LIKE THIS?

THAT'S PRECISELY WHAT I HAVE A PROBLEM WITH, YOU ALWAYS LOOK.NG DOWN AT US L.KE SMALL FR ES!

I MEAN, WHAT DOES K.R SH MA -SENPAI SEE IN YOU ANYWAY!?

WHAT? WHAT ABOUT HIM?

LIKE I SAID!

GUYS, LET S NOT FIGHT,,

BUTT OUT OF IT, SAEKI!!

SCARY!

YUMI-CHAN!

KEGAM....

I GUESS SHE PISSED OFF YOU GUYS TOO.

PICKING ON FUNEBASHI?

WHAT'RE YOU GUYS DOING HERE?

HMM...

BUT WHY ARE YOU GUYS PICKING ON SAEK AS WELL?

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

HUH?

SO WE WERE GOING TO TEACH HER A LESSON...

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE PISSED OFF AT HER TOO.

SAEK WAS JUST HERE ON ACCIDENT..

YUMI-CHAN...

キッ

THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU GUYS.

I'M THE ONE WHO IS PISSED OFF AT FUNEBASHI.

UH...

TH THAT'S NOT ..

DON'T JUST GO AROUND BUTTING YOUR HEAD INTO MY PROBLEMS.

HER FORTUNE TELLING IS TOTALLY WORTHLESS.

DON'T LISTEN TO HER.

SHE'S REALLY THE TYPE TO GET MISUNDERSTOOD, ISN'T SHE...

She was pissed off at me as well that one time..

I CAN TOTALLY HEAR HIM COMING THIS WAY

OH SHIT...

ざわ...

WELL, DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT A TEACHER'S GOING TO BE HERE SOON

YUMI-CHAN.

WHAT, GOT A PROBLEM?

YUMI-CHAN, WEREN'T YOU FRIENDS WITH THEM?

FRIENDS?

WELL I DO TALK TO THEM HERE AND THERE BUT I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT BEING FRIENDS.

I DON T CARE WHETHER YOU THANK ME OR NOT.

I wa living about the teacher thing, though.

I'M STILL P.SSED OFF AT YOU, SO BUZZ OFF.

LOOKS LIKE I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT YOU.

I WONDER IF I SHOULD THANK YOU.

ME, JUDGE-MENTAL?

.SN'T THAT WHAT YOU RE DO.NG?

I DON T CARE WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY

NO MATTER HOW MUCH OF A "GOOD" STUDENT YOU MIGHT BE THERE 'S NO WAY I D EVER WANT TO BECOME .IKE YOU YUMI 'CHAN

...

DO YOU REAL.ZE HOW YOU ARE CAUSING TROUBLE FOR PEOPLE AROUND YOU?

I DON'T .NTEND ON APOLOG.ZING ABOUT YESTERDAY.

BUT I MEAN LOOK AT HER, SHE'S SO JUDGE-MENTAL OF EVERYONE AROUND HER!

YUMI -CHAN!

I'M SICK OF IT ALL!!!

DON'T PUSH YOUR EXPECTA-TIONS ON ME LIKE I'M YOUR SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE!!

I'M ME!

ABOUT HOW I'M A "GOOD" STUDENT...

ABOUT HOW WELL OFF MY PARENTS ARE...

"NOT LIKE HER"...

"SHE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO IT"...

AH!

OH GOSH...

I...

MAN~ WHAT WAS THAT?

SHE TOTALLY TOLD US OFF.

FUNE-BASH -SAN...

I M SORRY.

I M SO SORRY.

I DIDN T INTEND TO...

WHAT WAS I THINK-ING?

I TOTALLY THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST A COLD BITCH.

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S LIKE ANY OTHER G.R.L.

I DON'T THINK I'VE HAD SOMEONE JEALOUS OF ME BEFORE~ HAHA

YOU RE PUTTING UP SUCH A FRONT WHEN YOU'RE NOT ACTUALLY LIKE THAT...

I'M SORRY, WAS I RIGHT?

W..WHO WOULD BE JEALOUS OF YOU!

COME ON GUYS...

YOU WERE ACTUALLY JUST JEALOUS OF ME, WEREN'T YOU?

OH, FUNEBASHI-SAN.

BUT I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE NTER-ESTED IN SEEING IT.

IT'S NOT THAT MPRESSIVE FOR A SHRINE,

...

HEY! SAEKI!

AT YOUR HOUSE...?

YUMI-CHAN IS GOING TO STAY OVER AT MY HOUSE TON.GHT.

DO YOU WANT TO JO.N US?

I'M SO SORRY!

YUM -CHAN...

I'M SORRY~

WELL... I DON T CARE.

T S FINE, RIGHT?

I might be an idiot after a.l...

ha ha ha

What're you crying about, Saeki?

Gintarou...

I WILL NOT BE COMING HOME TONIGHT.

HUH?

PLEASE TELL MOTHER...

YOSHI -ZUMI-

WELCOME BACK.

HIWAKO SAMA.

IT'S SOMETHING I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY AT LEAST ONCE.

HAHA, DID YOU SEE HIS FACE?

WAS IT OKAY TO SAY THAT?

WE'LL DO THAT NEXT TIME, THEN.

OH.

WAIT, SHOULDN'T WE HAVE GOTTEN A RIDE FROM HIM TO SAEKI'S HOUSE?

AHA HA HA~

PFFT...

THAT'S OUR SHRINE OVER THERE.

WELL I'VE ACTUALLY BEEN HERE BEFORE

112

I BROUGHT LOTS OF PICKLED VEGETABLES SO EAT LOTS WITH EVERYONE

THANK YOU!

I'M BACK!

WELCOME BACK, MAKOTO-CHAN.

HUH? WHY?

YOUNG LADY YOU CAN'T WALK UP THE MIDDLE PATH

YEAH, IT'S A THING.

I THINK I'VE HEARD OF IT BEFORE

REALLY? I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS SUCH A THING

BUT I FORGET ABOUT IT AND GO UP THE MIDDLE SOMETIMES TOO~

THE MIDDLE PATH OF THE STEPS LEADING UP TO A SHRINE IS RESERVED FOR THE GODS.

THAT'S WHY YOU MUSTN'T.

AHAHA HAHA~!

IT'S SO QUIET...

OUR PLACE S QUIET TOO, BUT...

THE ATMOSPHERE IS TOTALLY DIFFERENT...

WELCOME HOME, MAKOTO.

OH? DID YOU BRING YOUR FRIENDS?

T'S SO BIZARRE I FEEL SO RELAXED HERE

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US

HAHA, MY BAD.

Dad.

OH MY, MAKOTO S FRIENDS ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL AREN'T THEY?

DAD! I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO OUTSIDE WEARING THAT!

IS HE A PRIEST?

I thought he was a janitor or something

WE HEARD THAT WE SHOULDN'T GO UP THE MIDDLE OF THE PATH FROM SOMEONE.

EARLIER,

YOU MEAN THAT OLD LADY?

THE AREA JUST BEYOND THE ARCH IS CONSIDERED TO BE PART OF THE SHRINE.

SO WHEN YOU'RE VISITING, YOU'RE SUPPOSE TO USE THE LEFT SIDE OF THE STAIRS TO CLIMB UP TO THE SHRINE.

SO THAT'S WHY THE MIDDLE PATH IS RESERVED FOR THE GODS.

THAT'S RIGHT...

IT COMES FROM AGE OLD WISDOM ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING COMPROMISES AND MEETING HALF WAY WITH OTHERS.

BUT TO BE HONEST, IT'S MOSTLY TO PREVENT PEOPLE FROM BUMPING INTO EACH OTHER AS THEY COME AND GO FROM THE SHRINE.

HERALD?

WELL, NEVER MIND.

A GOD'S HELPER. OUR SHRINE'S HERALD'S A FOX SPIRIT.

WHAT'S THAT?

AS HE ALWAYS ENDS UP ARGUING WITH EVERYONE HE MEETS.

BUT YOU KNOW OUR SHRINE'S HERALD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THAT

...

WOW, I'M LEARNING ALL SORTS OF STUFF TODAY-

TO MEET OTHERS HALF-WAY..

THAT'S FINE.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HOSPITALITY

OH RIGHT! DAD, CAN EVERYONE STAY OVER TONIGHT?

ARE YOU AGAINST TAKING OVER YOUR FAMILY'S BUSINESS?

WELL IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T WANT TO.

BUT TO BE HONEST I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT I WANT TO DO MYSELF

WELL...

I DON'T HAVE ANY SIBLINGS, SO...

MAYBE IF I MARRIED HE COULD TAKE OVER OR SOME THING BUT I HONESTLY HAVEN'T GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT YET

WILL YOU SUCCEED THIS SHRINE?

SAEKI-SAN...

Have fun, you guys~

We will—

UM...

EVEN TODAY, HERE WE ARE, THREE UNLIKE PEOPLE BECOMING FRIENDS.

A SHRINE IS A STRANGE PLACE, ISN'T IT?

JUST BY BEING HERE YOU'RE ABLE TO MEET SO MANY DIFFERENT KINDS OF PEOPLE

I WANT TO PROTECT THIS PLACE THAT CREATES SUCH MIRACLES.

IS THAT SO? YOU REALLY DID THINK NEGATIVELY OF ME DIDN'T YOU?

I CAN SEE YOU'RE THE TYPE TO HOLD GRUDGES

EVERYONE SAYS YOU SHOULD DO WHAT YOU WANT

BUT SOMETIMES, REALITY ISN'T AS SIMPLE AS THAT

I FOR ONE WANT TO BECOME A VET.

BUT WITH MY CURRENT GRADES THE TEACHERS SAY IT'S NOT POSSIBLE

...

SO I'M THINKING MAYBE I SHOULD GO FOR SOMETHING ELSE~

SHALL I HELP YOU STUDY THEN?

ha ha

YOU WILL? I REALLY DID HAVE YOU WRONG FUNEBASHI

LOOKS LIKE YOU MANAGED TO MAKE THEM FRIENDS.

YEAH.

WHAT'S THIS? YOU LOOK HAPPY.

YOU WANT TO BE NORMAL LIKE THOSE GIRLS, DON'T YOU?

YOU SHOULD DO AS YOU LIKE.

...

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU.

I'M GRATEFUL FOR THAT.

NO, I'M FINE. I CAN SEE YOU, AFTER ALL.

IS THAT SO~

I TOOK A PEEK.

ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS.

...

WELL, I DON'T THINK WOMEN HAVE TROUBLE GETTING ALONG TOGETHER ANYWAYS

YOU'LL BE TOGETHER FOR A GOOD WHILE.

OKAY!

SAEKI-SAN CAN YOU TEACH US HOW PAY OUR RESPECTS HERE?

WH...

...GINTAROU.

WHAT S IT?

GIN-TAROU.

THANK YOU!

HMPH.

...

NO, IT'S NOTHING.

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

NO I BE-LIEVE HER

NOT YOU TOO! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?!

JUST TH NK ABOUT IT

I CAN SEE OUR SHR.NE'S SP.RIT.

YOU KNOW, ...

Our home is a small Inari shrine you can find anywhere.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, YOU RE STILL GO NG ON ABOUT THAT STUFF?

If you happen to be nearby,

Please come see our shrine.

DOESN'T IT FEEL LIKE A SPIRIT IS HERE WITH US?

a bad mouthed and lazy fox spirit

And perhaps

You might meet our easy going priest.

WHAT'RE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT DINNER?

MAKO-TO-

might
greet you
on your
visit.

Ginjirou

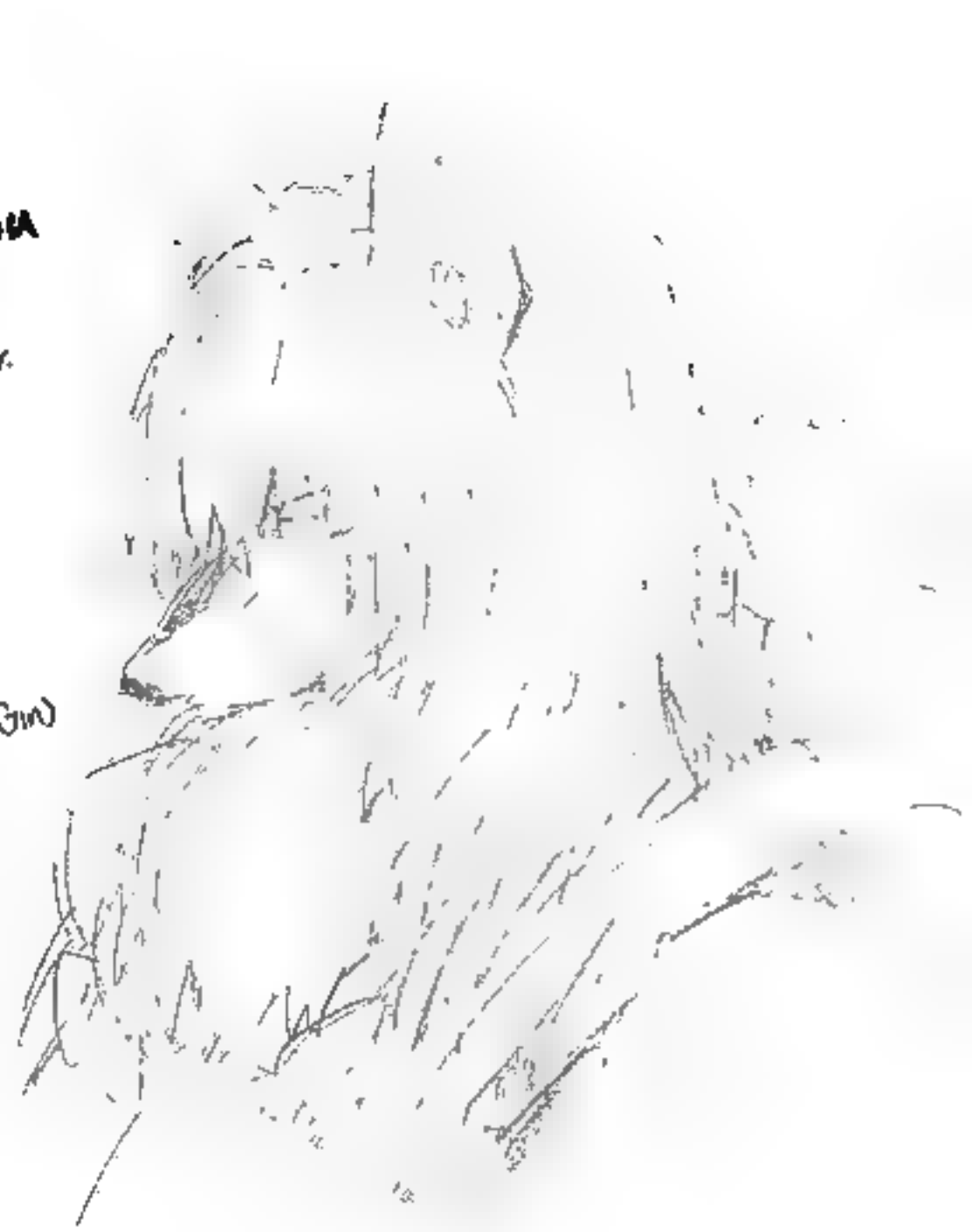
Gin's old partner.

Currently missing.

Serious and quiet

The kind of person who worries about the little things. (The opposite of Gin)

About 300 years old.



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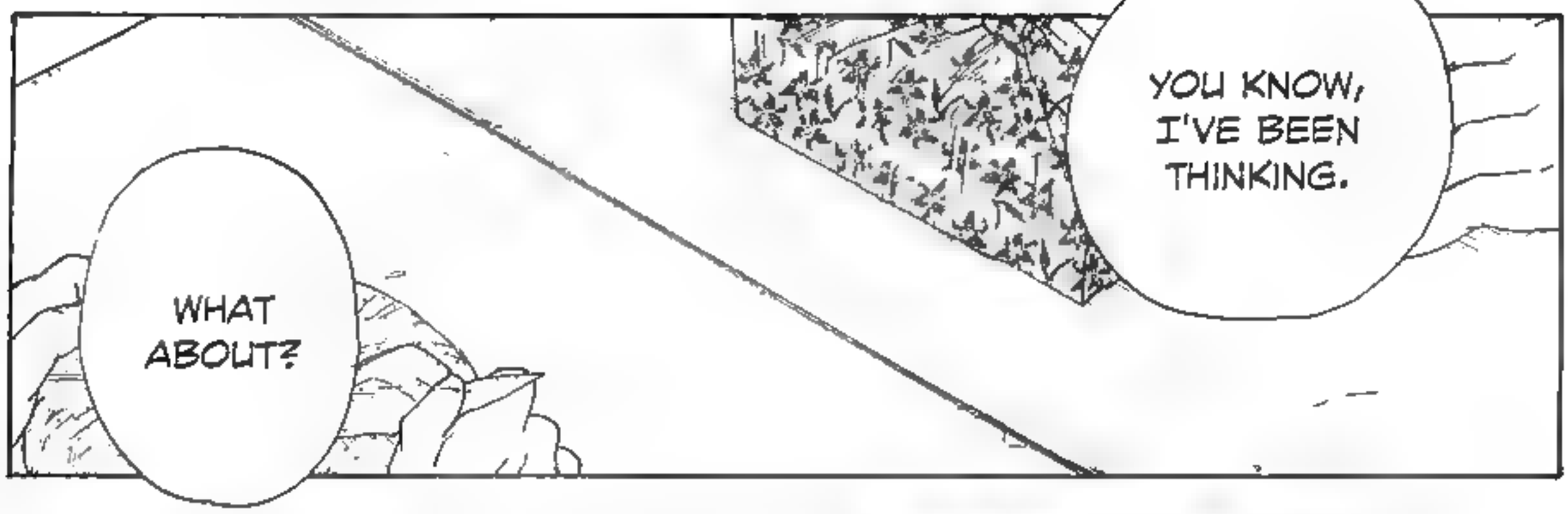
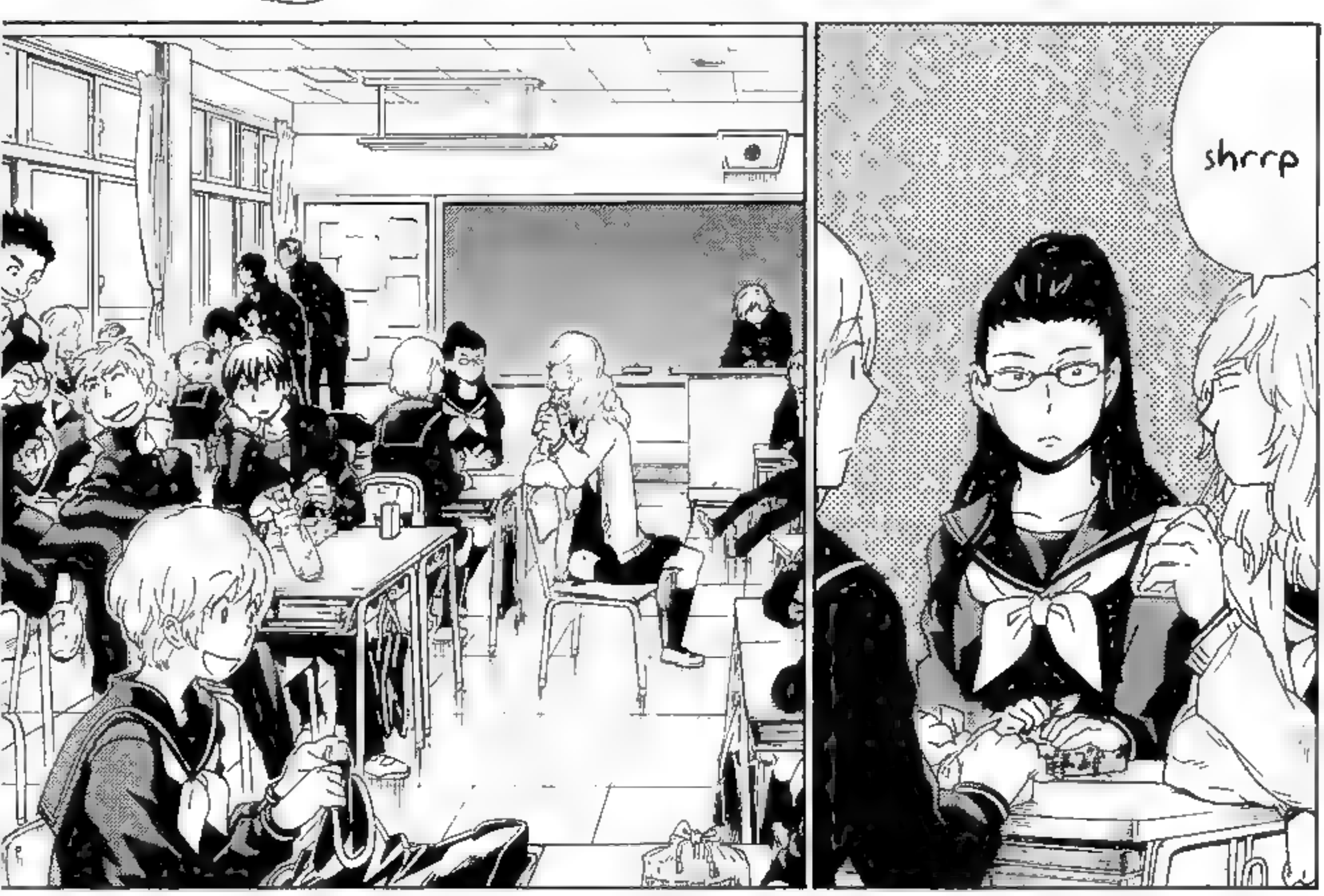
CHAPTER 14 WHERE GODS RESIDE


YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING.
WHAT ABOUT?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IS MY BEING HERE A PROBLEM?
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU.
WHY ARE YOU HERE ANYWAYS?
GUYS, GUYS...

IKEGAMI-SAN, YOU'RE BEING RUDE.

REALLY? I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT, GIVEN YOUR DAD'S PERSONALITY.

NO, MY DAD MADE IT FOR ME TODAY. I'M NOT THAT GOOD AT COOKING.

YOU BROUGHT A LUNCH BOX?

DID YOU MAKE IT YOURSELF?

OH, THAT'S RIGHT, WAS IT OKAY FOR YOU TO STAY OVER LAST TIME? DID YOU GET IN TROUBLE?

H"

MY MOTHER AND I AREN'T ON SPEAKING TERMS RIGHT NOW, BUT IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

She gave me an earful, though.

WELL, IF YOU SAY SO...

IT WAS ALRIGHT.

NO.

...

OH, SPEAKING OF WHICH...

GOOD FOR YOU. FORGET ABOUT YOUR MOM AND DO AS YOU PLEASE.

BUT LIKE I SAID, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.

I'M RATHER RELIEVED ABOUT THE WHOLE AFFAIR, TO BE HONEST.

IT'S A MAP OF SHINTOU CITY.

HERE S SH NTOJ CASTLE, AND HERE IS THE SCHOOL.

AND HERE IS SAEKI -SAN'S SHRINE.

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

TH S HERE IS A MAP OF THE SAME AREA FROM EDO PER OD.

AND?

SAEK -SAN S HOME IS THE SAME. AN OLD SHR NE THAT STILL STANDS TO TH S DAY.

YEAH, OUR SHRINE WAS BUILT AROUND THE EDO PER OD.

YOU CAN SEE THE HOME OF A FAMOUS HISTOR CAL FIGURE, AND TREES THAT ARE OF MORE THAN 1000 YEARS OF AGE. SH NTOU CITY IS F LLED WITH THESE K ND OF HISTORICAL MARKS FROM AGES PAST

LOOK CAREFULLY. YOU CAN SEE THE CASTLE, THE SHRINE, PONDS, AND EVEN WHERE AN ANC ENT BATTLE TOOK PLACE.

AND THEY LIVED THROUGH AND SAW SO MUCH MORE THAN WE KNOW.

AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO LONG AFTER WE ARE GONE.

DOESN'T IT HAVE A ROMANTIC FEEL TO IT?

BUT WE ARE SURROUNDED BY THINGS THAT ARE HUNDREDS, OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF YEARS OLD.

I MIGHT HAVE VISITED YOUR HOME DUE TO MY OWN PERSONAL CIRCUMSTANCES BUT...

IT MADE ME THINK...

WE'RE OF THE SAME YEAR, THE SAME SCHOOL.

LIVING THE CURRENT MOMENT IN TIME.

WE ONLY KNOW OF WHAT WE SEE IN OUR TIME AS IT IS NOW.

THE SHRINE NEAR THE CASTLE HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS.

OUR SHRINE IS FROM THE EDO PERIOD, BUT...

HMM.

HUH? REALLY?

WOW, THAT'S AMAZING! I'VE NEVER THOUGHT OF IT THAT WAY!

...

...

HOW DOES A SHRINE GET MADE ANYWAYS?

I'VE BEEN THINKING...

NOW THAT YOU GUYS MENTION IT,

A LOCAL LORD BECAME PATRON TO OUR SHRINE AND BUILT WHAT YOU SEE NOW.

DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE EDO PERIOD, IT BECAME LARGER.

"IMAN"

AS EXPECTED OF A SHRINE DEDICATED TO THE HARVEST GOD.

WHAT AN INTERESTING STORY.

EVERY YEAR, THE FARMERS WOULD GO UP TO THE MOUNTAIN TO OBSERVE THE WILL-O-WISPS TO DIVINE WHETHER THE COMING YEAR WOULD YIELD GOOD HARVEST OR NOT.

THE SURROUNDING AREA WAS A FARMING VILLAGE AND THEY BUILT A SMALL SHRINE UP IN THE MOUNTAIN.

IN OUR CASE,

THAT'S HOW OUR SHRINE WAS USED IN THE PAST.

IT'S SOMETHING I WANT TO CONTINUE TO PASS DOWN TO MY FAMILY'S FUTURE GENERATION.

OUR FAMILY CAME FROM A WELL ESTABLISHED FEUDAL CLAN DURING THE EDO ERA. OUR FAMILY WAS PARTICULARLY RENOWNED FOR OUR KNOWLEDGE ON TEA.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU MIGHT NOTICE NOWADAYS FROM LOOKING AT ME, BUT WE CONTINUE TO HOLD THIS TRADITION IN OUR FAMILY AND UPHOLD THE TECHNIQUES BESTOWED ONTO US BY OUR ANCESTORS.

OR AT LEAST, I WAS BROUGHT UP TO UPHOLD THIS TRADITION IN MY FAMILY.

VISITING YOUR SHRINE REALLY MADE ME REALIZE THAT WHAT I HAVE AT HOME IS SO VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.

AND I'M SORRY I CALLED YOUR DIVINATION A SHAM.

THANK YOU.

YOU GUYS HAVE IT GOOD, COMING FROM SUCH GRAND FAMILY BACKGROUNDS.

SIGH...

...

IT REALLY HIT HOME.

WHEN I VISITED SAEKI-SAN'S HOME,

DOESN T MATTER R GHT?

EVERYONE IS ALL COOL NOW.

BES.DES, IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT...

AND IT S NOT LIKE I DID ANYTH NG TO DESERVE PRA.SE FROM YOU.

YOU DON T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE FOR THAT...

HUH? NO~

WAS IT US...?

Number 1 handsome boy in school

TURNS OUT THAT TH NG ABOUT FUNEBASHI AND KIRI SHIMA SENPAI WAS A RUMOR ANYWAYS.

WAIT A M NUTE.. HOW DID THAT RUMOR START ANYWAYS?

...

HEY WAI TAKE A LOOK AT THAT.

THEY RE ALREADY BUDDY BUDDY.

SPEAK- .NG OF WHICH~

THE TORII?

WHAT IS IT FOR?

SHRINES ALWAYS HAVE THIS THING.

IT SURE DIDN'T FEEL LIKE SOME KIND OF BOUNDARY TO ANOTHER WORLD.

UH...

ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? WE WERE OVER LAST TIME, BUT...

WELL, TO PUT IT SIMPLY, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT THE GOD'S DOORWAY.

IT REPRESENTS THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE REALM OF HUMANS AND GODS. IT HAS OTHER MEANINGS TOO THOUGH BUT THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

kind of like a barrier

IT CONNECTS BETWEEN WORLDS? EVEN THOUGH YOU LIVE THERE?

WE SHOULD ACT WITH RESPECT AS WE ENTER THE DOMAINS OF GODS.

EVEN FOR NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE US WHO DON'T FREQUENTLY VISIT SHRINES WENT TO SAEKI-SAN'S HOME.

I THINK IT'S MORE ABOUT YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SHRINES.

IS THAT HOW IT IS...

WELL...

IF YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT...

I'VE NEVER GIVEN IT MUCH THOUGHT BEFORE...

I SHOULD ASK GINTAROU ABOUT THIS STUFF WHEN I GO HOME...

THEN WHAT IS IT?

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT IT MEANS NECESSARILY

AND WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT SEPARATES OUR WORLD? ARE YOU SAYING WE DON'T LIVE TOGETHER WITH GODS IN THE SAME WORLD?

OH DEAR MERCIFUL GOD...

GIN!
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOME-THING!!

GIN-TAROU~

WHAT IS IT?

GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT? IT'S GOOD TO RELAX ONCE IN A WHILE.

WERE YOU SLEEPING ALL DAY?

WERE YOU BACK ALREADY?

BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS RELAXING:

SAY, GIN.

THERE WAS A TIME WHERE OUR SHR.NE WAS BUSTLING WITH GUESTS, RIGHT?

HUH?

WHY THE SUDDEN INTEREST?

WELL, DUR NG LUNCH, YUMI -CHAN AND FUNEBASHI -SAN... YOU REMEMBER HER R GHT? THAT G RL WITH GLASSES WHO CAME OVER LAST T.ME.

WE WERE TALK NG ABOUT HOW TH S CITY LOOKED 'N THE PAST.

TALKING TO FUNEBASHI-SAN NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME. SHE KNOWS SO MUCH AND SHE TH NKS ABOUT ALL SORTS OF STUFF I NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED.

HMPH. WHAT ABOUT IT?

I DON'T WANNA.

EHH? WHY?!

...

SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD ASK YOU ABOUT IT WHEN I GOT BACK HOME.

WELL, ANYWAY. WE WERE TALKING ABOUT HOW OUR SHR NE WAS USED IN THE PAST.

COME ON GIN, JUST THIS ONCE~

AND WHAT IF I DID? I'M JUST A FOX, YOU KNOW~

BUT I WANT TO HEAR IT FROM YOU. YOU LIVED THROUGH THOSE TIMES, RIGHT?

BESIDES, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE HISTORY BEHIND THIS SHRINE, DON'T YOU?

GO BOTHER TATSUO ABOUT THAT KIND OF STUFF!

REALLY?

WELL... YEAH.

BY THE TIME I BECAME A HERALD, THIS PLACE WAS ALREADY WELL ESTABLISHED.

IT WAS MADE BY HUMANS WELL BEFORE I CAME ALONG.

...

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING~

...

THAT TORII WASN'T THERE IN THE PAST, THOUGH.

BUT JUST LIKE THE REST OF THIS SHRINE, IT'S JUST SOMETHING BUILT BY HUMANS ON THEIR OWN ACCORD.

IT HELPS TO PREVENT UNWANTED TRESPASSERS AND TO PROTECT THE GODS.

WELL, YOU AREN'T TOO FAR OFF.

YUMI-CHAN ASKED ME WHY TORIIS EXISTED IN SHRINES.

SO GIN,

A LONG TIME AGO THERE WERE NO BOUNDARIES BETWEEN WORLDS.

GODS DWELLED IN THE VERY SAME LAND AS THE REST OF US.

NOW, THEY ONLY RESIDE WITHIN THE TORII.S.

YEAH, THAT'S THE GIST OF IT.

SAME GOES FOR THE SHRINE AS WELL.

WELL, GIVEN ITS SHAPE AND FORM, IT SHOULD HOLD SOME POWER DESPITE THAT FACT.

I TOLD HER IT WAS KIND OF LIKE A GOD'S FRONT GATE, OR SOMETHING LIKE A BOUNDARY.

AT LEAST, THAT'S HOW I THOUGHT OF IT ALL THIS TIME. IS THAT TRUE?

IT SOUNDS LIKE GODS HAVE SLOWLY LOST THEIR PLACE OF BELONGING IN OUR WORLD...

THE WAY YOU SAY IT...

...

...!

HMM... KINJIROU WAS AROUND AT THAT TIME, WASN'T HE...

DEAR PRIEST, WHAT PLEASANT SURPRISE.

I'VE BROUGHT A DRINK, IF IT PLEASES YOU.

LIVELY, AREN'T THOU.

THE HEAD CARPENTER HAST PASSED, AND LEFT YOU WITH THE BURDEN OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY

I WILL NOT HEAR IT.

NAY, WE DO WELL WITH WHAT WE HAVE. IT IS AN HONOR TO BE GRANTED SUCH RESPONSIBILITY.

FOR SUCH A WORK OF IMPORT, MINE BODY FEEL NOT THE SLIGHTEST ACHE.

HOW DOST FEEL, WEARY FROM SUCH WORK?

LOOKS LIKE IT SHOULD BE FINISHED SOON.

INARI IS SIMPLY ENJOYING THE HUMANLY REALM.

THE RED ONE APPEARS TO BE INARI.

IT'S THE SECOND ONE AROUND HERE.

LIKE HELL.

WHAT NEED IS THERE FOR TWO SHRINES?

AS THOU MUST KNOW, WE ARE SIMPLE CARPENTERS OF THIS VILLAGE.

WE ARE IGNORANT OF THE FINE INTRICACIES OF SHINTO.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND WORDS

MOREOVER YOU ARE SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF MANY OTHERS ELSEWHERE

DEAR PRIEST, YOU HAVE BEEN QUITE GENEROUS IN BECOMING A PATRON TO OUR SHRINE.

I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE COUNTLESS HUNDREDS ELSEWHERE AS WELL.

WHAT'D YOU NEED THAT MANY FOR?

WE PUT GREAT EFFORT AND RESPECT INTO CREATING TORI.S.

IS IT NOT WRONG THAT WE HUMANS ARE CREATING THE TORII?

BUT IS IT NOT SAID THAT A TORII IS THE GATE INTO THE GODS' REALM?

DESPITE THAT, WE OFTEN PONDER TO OURSELVES...

WE DO OUR BEST TO CREATE A TORII WORTHY OF A GOD TO CALL HOME TO...

ARE WE HUMANS NOT TRAPPING IN THE GODS WITHIN OUR REALM TO SATIFY OUR GREED AND DESIRES?

BY MAKING THESE TORIIS...

IT IS TRUE THAT IF THE TORIIS WERE NOT BUILT, THIS PLACE MIGHT BE ABLE TO FORESTALL CHANGE.

HMM.

WHAT A GLOOMY THING TO SAY.

...

THE MAN DOES HAVE A POINT.

I SEE.

THIS IS WHAT HADTH TROUBLED THEE.

TCH.

THE TORIIS ARE KEEPING SOMETHING TRAPPED INSIDE, BUT THAT SOMETHING IS MOST LIKELY US HERALDS.

...

I SHALL PRAY TO THE GODS REGARDING THESE CONCERNS.

HUH?

N... NO.

THAT'S NOT..

...THAT'S NOT TRUE.

HUH?

...I'M NOT TRAPPED IN THIS PLACE.

AREN'T YOU HERE BY YOUR OWN VOLITION?

...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

WHAT A THING TO SAY, SENSEI!

HAHAHA.

HELLO, I JUST CAME BACK A MINUTE AGO.

WELCOME HOME, MAKOTO -CHAN!

おかえりー

WEL-COME HOME.

I WAS WONDERING WHY WE PURPOSELY DIVIDE THE TWO REALMS.

THE TORIIS.

AND I WAS THINKING WHETHER OR NOT THE TOR S ARE REALLY THAT NECESSARY.

YUP.

WERE YOJ HAVING A CHAT WITH GINTAROU -SAMA?

WHAT ABOUT?

and the same for everyone else.

LIKE HERE.

SILLY MAKOTO, THAT S NOT TRLE AT ALL. THE GODS HAVE PLENTY OF PLACES THEY BELONG TO.

HUHZ LIKE WHERE?

THEN I THOUGHT, IF TH.S S THE ONLY PLACE THAT GODS LIVE IN,

THE.R PLACE OF BELONGING HAS REALLY BECOME SMALL.

HA HA HA HA.

AS EX PECT- ED

You're not taking it seriously!

DAD~!

WHEN PEOPLE COME TO SHR NES AND SEE THESE STRUCTURES, THEY FEEL AS F THEY'VE COME CLOSER TO THE GODS.

IT S THANKS TO THE TOR IS THAT PEOPLE CAN FEEL CONNECTED TO THE GODS.

THAT'S ALSO ANOTHER REASON WHY SHRINES ARE PRESERVED IN THE.R OLD STATE.

GODS DON T JUST DWELL .N SHR.NES TEMPLES, AND THE LIKES. THEY ARE ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE.

I'M BEING SERIOUS.

AND AS LONG AS TH.S SHR.NE IS HERE, GINTAROU-SAMA WOULLD ALSO BE ABLE TO WATCH OVER AND PROTECT EVERYONE.

EVEN LONG AFTER YOJ TAKE OVER THE SHRINE, IT WILL STAY AS IT ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

YOUR MOM AND I GREW UP IN TH.S SHR.NE, AND SO DID YOU. I'M SURE SHE WOULD ALSO L KE THIS PLACE PROTECTED AND CONTINUED ON FOR AS LONG AS POSS BLE.

EH?

GIN.

SOMEONE'S COMING.

THE CARPENTER?

WASN'T THE WORK ALREADY FINISHED?

KI?

THOUGH YOU MIGHT NOT BE PLEASED WITH OUR WORK...

SO I PRAY.

WE DID OUR VERY BEST.

EVERYONE'S CHILDREN, AND ANY OTHER CHILDREN OF THIS VILLAGE!!

PLEASE WATCH OVER AND PROTECT MY CHILDREN...

...

AS PEOPLE LIVE OUT THEIR LIVES, THINGS NATURALLY CHANGE AS TIME PASSES.

BUT I DON'T THINK THAT CHANGE IS NECESSARILY BAD.

IT'S THANKS TO THE TORII'S THAT THIS PLACE HAS BEEN ABLE TO STAY AS IT HAS BEEN FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

HUH?

WHAT'S THIS?

MAKOTO.

LOOK AT WHAT?

COME LOOK AT THIS.

I DIDN'T THINK IT WOULD STILL BE HERE.

?

WELL, SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SCRIBBLING ON THE TORII?

WHO WROTE IT?

I GUESS IT ONLY LOOKS TO BE SCRIBBLES FOR YOU.

THE CARPENTER WHO MADE THIS TORII.

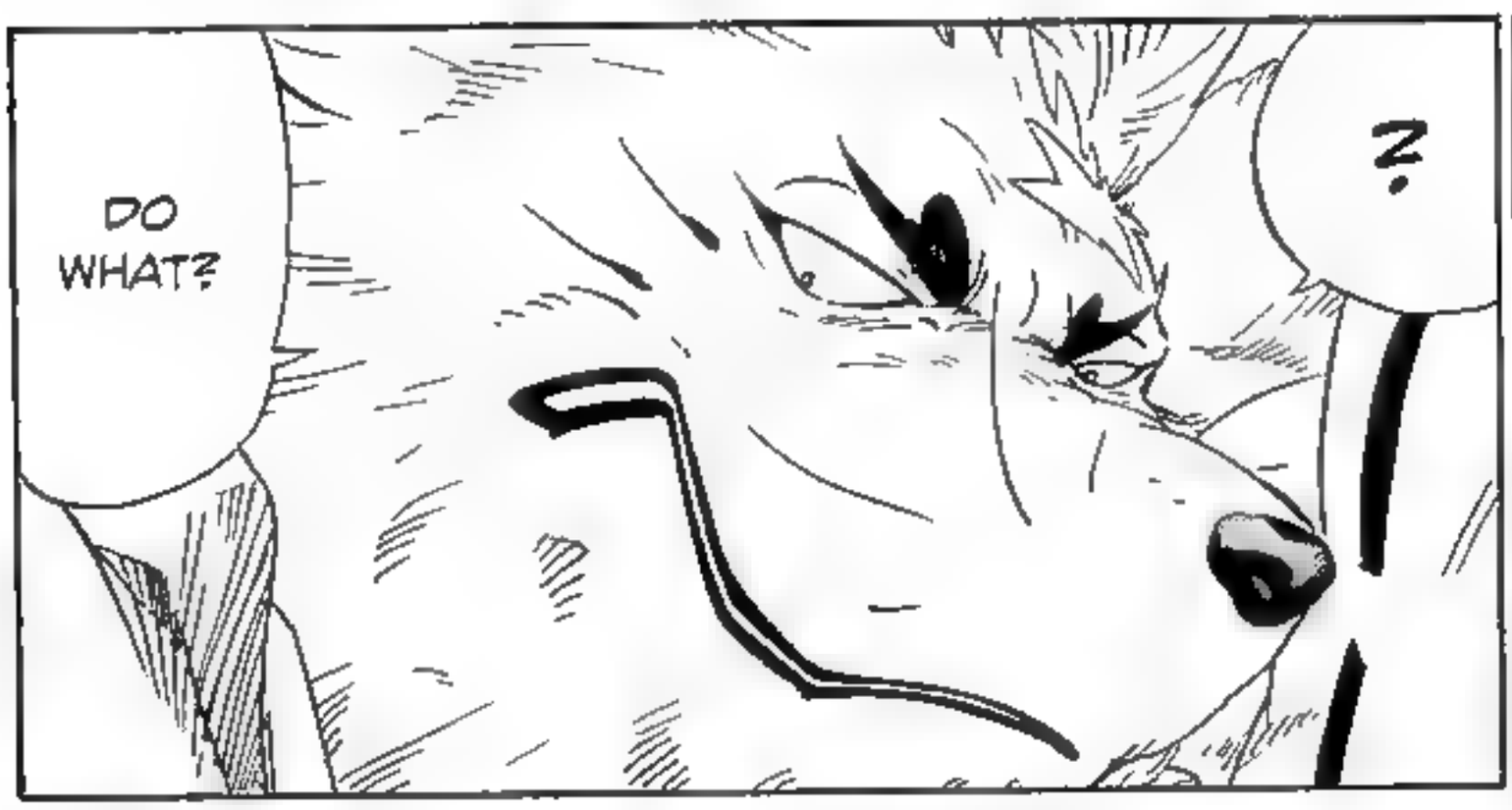
A NOSTALGIC THING, REALLY.

TO BE HONEST, I'M KIND OF HAPPY TO SEE THIS ARTIFACT LEFT IN THIS SHRINE.

GI-

WUA!

HAH?

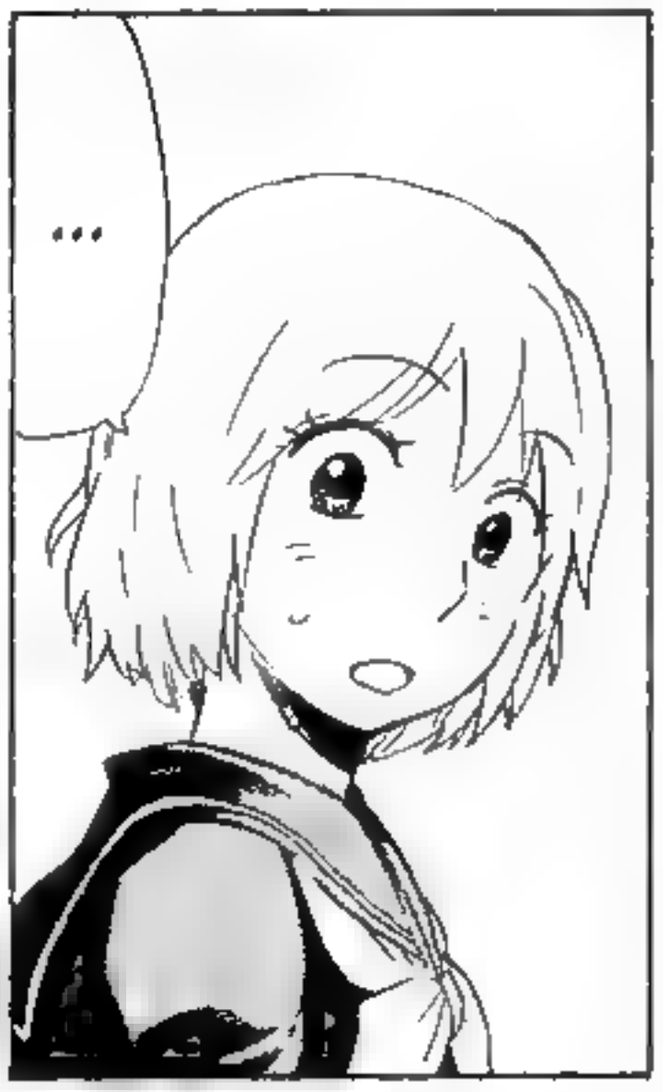

DO WHAT?
?

DID YOU JUST DO SOME-TH NG?
GINTAROU!

...

WHAT'S WRONG, MAKOTO?
HUH?
WHA?

UMM...


...

haha
Just kidding
WERE YOU SPIRITED AWAY BY THE FOXES OR SOMETHING?

AH~
ぺろ～ん
GOT YER NOSE!

?

...

GIN!

Utamaru (lion)

Half of the Aum mantra. Keeps his mouth shut. Often says "Mm."

Saimaru (lion-dog)

Half of the Aum mantra. Keeps his mouth open. Often says "Ah."

Despite being the open-mouthed half of Aum he has the horn instead of Utamaru

About 1500 years old Saimaru is about a century Utamaru's senior

Old men who spend their time in a daze Sometimes weeks will go by without them noticing.

Kame

About 300 years old. Slow and pessimistic

Moves at a pace of about 2km per week

4/10

SFX: *RING RING~*

11/10

10/10

CHAPTER 5 HERALDS OF ALL KINDS

GINTA-ROU~

LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND!

A TURTLE!

Gah

WHERE'S DAD?

MAKOTO...

HE WASN'T MOVING SO I BROUGHT H M WITH ME

I FOUND H M DOWN BELOW ON THE ROAD. OH BOY, HE'S HEAVY~

WHAT'D YOU MEAN, WHERE...?

A TURTLE? WHERE?

I FOUND A TURTLE ON THE WAY HOME! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE SO BIG~

DAD, LOOK AT WHAT I FOUND.

I WONDER IF HE WAS LOST...

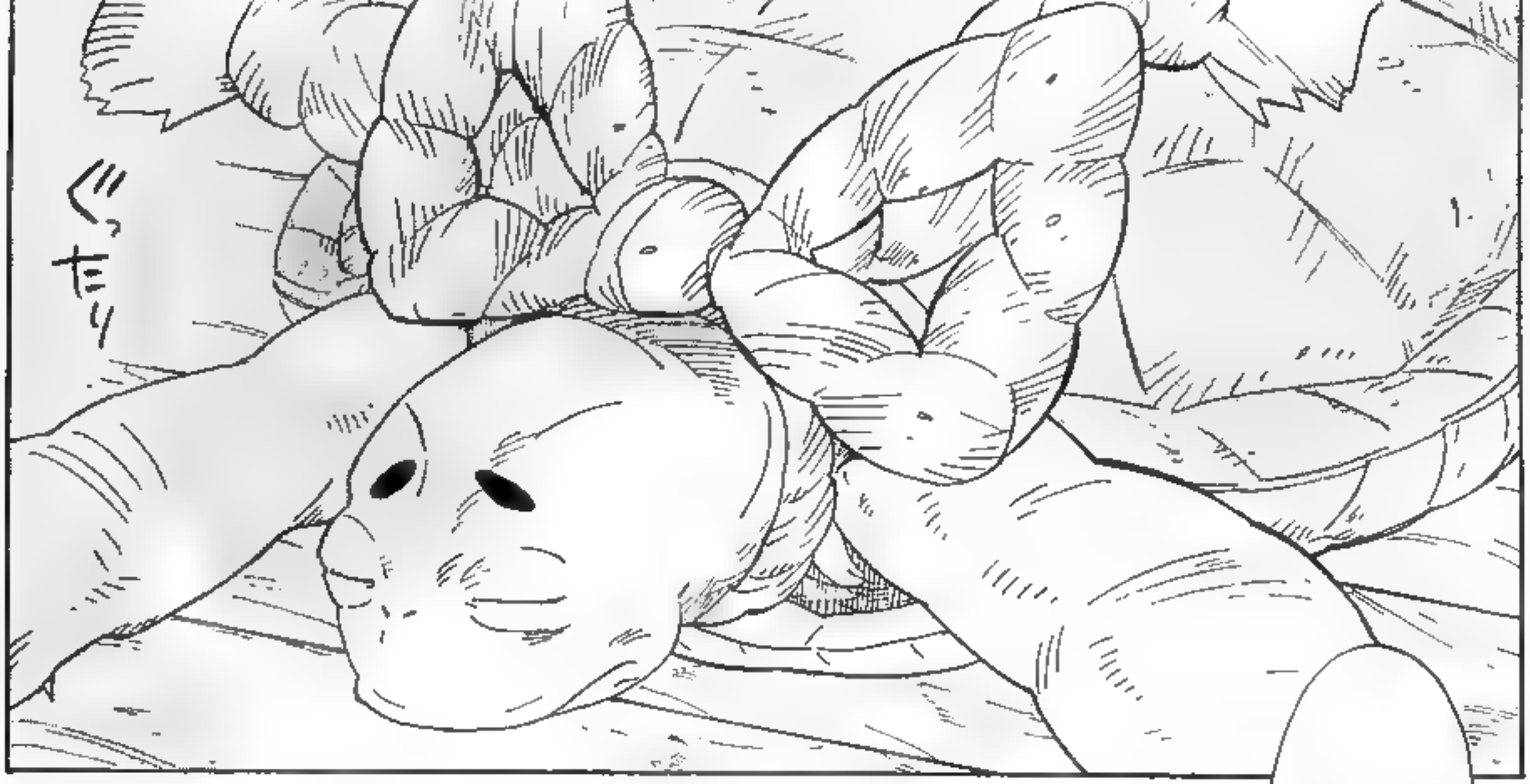
OH, ARE YOU BACK WITH THE GROCERIES, MAKOTO?

THAT'S NOT A TURTLE, IT'S A HERALD

FOOL.

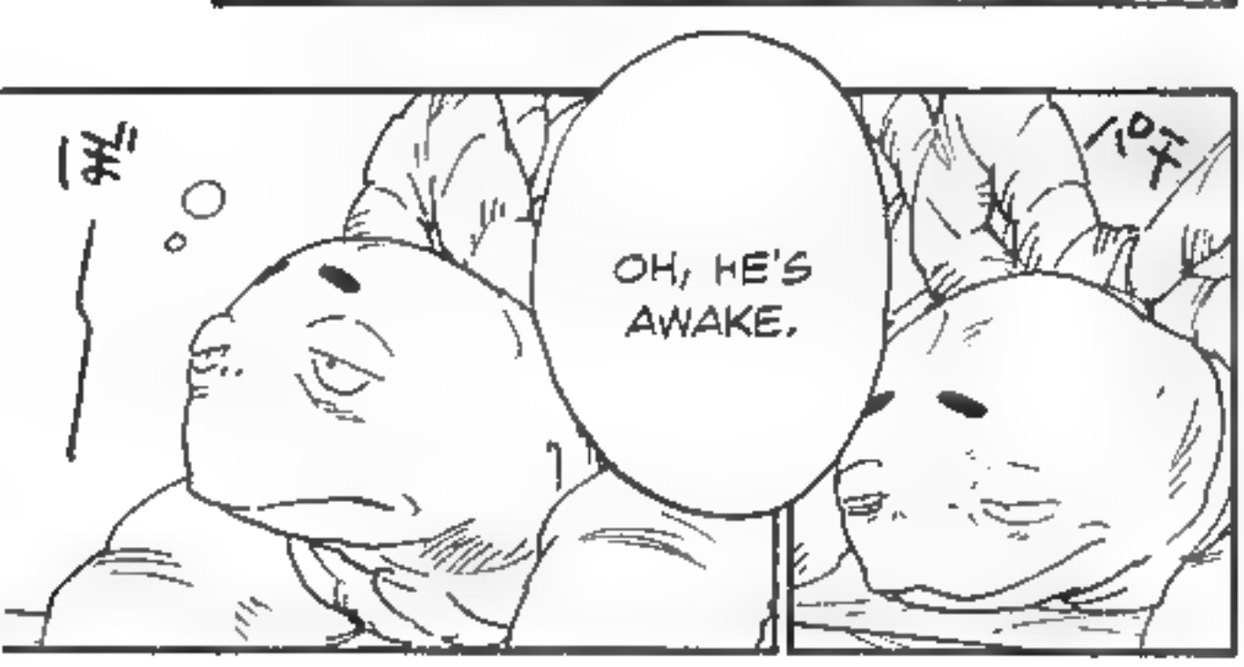
WHAT!!

?


HONESTLY...

GIN! LEAVE HIM ALONE!
Is he even alive?
HEY, WAKE UP.

YOU COULDN'T TELL APART A HERALD FROM A NORMAL TURTLE...
HOW PA-THETIC~
BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A HERALD BESIDES YOU BEFORE, GIN!


OH, HE'S AWAKE.

WAAH!

WOW~

He can talk~!

WOW, THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF HERALDS, HUH?

OF COURSE THERE ARE. BUT L.ON-DOGS ARE THE MOST COMMON KIND OF HERALD.

HUH? BUT AREN'T LION-DOGS A F.CTIONAL BEAST?

I'd be content with a ladleful, if you don't mind

IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT A HERALD, MAKOTO?

BEFORE THAT, MAY I TROUBLE YOU FOR SOME WATER?

OH, RIGHT!

WELL...

DO YOU BELONG TO SOME OTHER SHRINE?

I... IT'S MY FIRST T.ME SPEAKING TO A HUMAN...

THE CITY PLANNED TO CREATE A NEW ROAD IN THAT AREA.

I'VE RES.DED IN A SMALL SHRINE NEXT TO THE HYOUTAN LAKE FOR ROUGHLY 300 YEARS WHEN...

AND THUS, DESTROYED BOTH THE LAKE AND THE SHRINE TO MAKE WAY.

THAT S IN THE TOWN RIGHT BES DES US.

WELL, THAT S NOT SURPRISING GIVEN THAT YOU RE A TURTLE.

AND ON THE WAY, MY STRENGTH GAVE OUT...

LEFT WITHOUT A CHOICE, I VENTURED TO FIND A NEW HOME..

I'D SAY, CURSE THEE, IN YOUR ARROGANCE YOU CONJURE YOUR OWN DEMISE...

IT MAKES ME EVER SO FURIOUS OF THE HUMANS...

BUT TO FIND OUT THAT THIS TOWN HAS ALSO BECOME SO DEVELOPED...

WHAT PROFOUND SADNESS TO SEE TH S LAND THAT THE GODS HAVE PROTECTED SO LONG HAVE BEEN SO VIOLATED...

AND THE VERY PEOPLE IT SERVED DESTROYED IT FOR ROAD CONVENIENCE AND TO PREVENT KIDS FROM FALLING INTO THE LAKE...

AND TO THINK, THAT SHRINE WAS THERE TO PROTECT THE LAND AGAINST DROUGHT AND TO MAINTAIN THE LAND'S WATER BALANCE...

...

WE'RE HELPLESS TO PREVENT SUCH THING THESE DAYS FROM HAPPEN.NG, TOO.

You can't just exorcise away the karma from destroying a shrine...!!

I DO NOT POSSESS THE POWER TO DO SO...

And it would be a bother anyways

...SO I FANCY MYSELF TO SUCH THOUGHTS FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT

WISE CHOICE.

IT'S NOT L KE HE HAS A REASON TO STAY.

GIN! YOU DON T HAVE TO CHASE HIM OUT L.KE THAT!

YOU'D BEST MAKE YOUR LEAVE SOON.

ALL TH.S TALK ABOUT THE INSOLENCE OF HUMANS IS F.NE AND ALL, BUT YOU SOUND PLENTY RECOVERED TO ME.

A HERALD'S TERRITORY AND HOME IS A COMPLICATED MATTER, YOU KNOW.

OUR SHRINE IS DED.CATED TO THE INARI, BUT HE IS A HERALD TO A DIFFERENT GOD.

AH.

HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER FULLY EVEN IF HE STAYS ANY LONGER HERE

I honestly don't care whether he stays or leaves, but

YOU'RE RIGHT, I'M A COLD MONSTER~

I MEAN, HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD, G.N!

BUT WE CAN T JUST SIT AROUND DO.NG NOTH.NG!

WOW, A TURTLE HERALD, YOU SAY?

YOU SURE ABOUT THAT MAKOTO? YOU WON'T JUST W.LLY NILLY FIND A HOME FOR HIM JUST BECAUSE YOU WANT TO.

DON'T WORRY! I LL FIND YOU A HOME FOR SURE!

W.LL YOU REALLY DO THAT FOR ME?!

UH... WHO MIGHT THIS BE?

AH, HE'S MY DAD... HE S THE HEAD PRIEST OF OUR SHR.NE...

AMAZING~! WHERE IS HE? IS HE HERE? THERE?

DAD!! STOP!!

WHEN THEY GOT RAN OVER BY A CAR, THE SHELLS WOULD EXPLODE LIKE A F.RECRACKER AND SPLATTER A.L OVER THE S DE WALK.

I WOULD OFTEN SEE THEM NEAR THE ROAD NEXT TO THE RIVER.

I REMEMBER I USED TO SEE LOTS OF TURTLES WHEN I WAS A K D.

How nostalg.c~

IS THAT SO? THAT'S TROUBLING.

DAD, THE TURTLE SAID HIS HOME IS GONE, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

ARE THERE ANY SHRINES AROUND HERE THAT HAVE TURTLES FOR A HERALD?

How exciting~

TO THINK THERE WERE TURTLE HERALDS... THAT MUST MEAN THERE ARE ALL KINDS, LIKE DOVES, DEERS, AND EVEN MONKEYS, HUH?

OH I WISH I COULD SEE THEM TOO~!

...AH, THAT SHRINE MIGHT BE WHERE THOSE LION-DOGS RESIDE.

...

OH!

IF I REMEMBER RIGHT, TURTLES BELONG TO MATSUNOO SHRINES...

WELL, I'VE BEEN THERE BEFORE.

DO YOU KNOW THAT SHRINE, GIN?

REMEMBER THE SHOUBA GRAND SHRINE NEXT TO THE STATION? I THINK I REMEMBER HEARING THAT THEY HAD AN ALTAR FOR THE GOD MATSUNO O.

I WOULD BE IN YOUR DEBT IF YOU COULD!

A lake she said!

IT MIGHT NOT BE THE EXACT SHRINE YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, BUT IT SHOULD BE OKAY, RIGHT? THERE'S A BIG LAKE THERE, TOO!

松尾系列　度来系氏族の秦氏が、701年 京都に建てたのが松尾大社 亀はその神使とされている。
摂社　その神社の本社と深い 縁故のある神を祀る小規模な社。

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CAUSE THE TURTLE S TOO HEAVY FOR ME~

I'M NOT YOUR BAGGAGE CARR.ER, MAKOTO!

COME ON GIN! LET'S GO!

HUH?! WHY ME?!

I BEG YOUR PARDON...

I BEG YOU TO GET OFF MY HEAD...

GAH, SUCH A PAIN!!!

CAREFUL OUT THERE, MAKOTO!

IT'S FINE, JUST THINK OF IT AS A DATE WITH ME~! LET'S GO~!

OH, COME ON! YOU SCARED THEM OFF!

QUIT YOUR COM-PLAINING, SHOUHEI -KUN!

HEY~ WEREN'T WE GOING TO WATCH A MOVIE TODAY?

YOU'VE BEEN DOING NOTHING BUT MESSING AROUND WITH CATS ALL DAY.

LIKE HELL I WOULD! RATHER, THAT FAT LITTLE BASTARD SNUCK INTO MY ROOM LAST TIME!

AND HE PISSED ALL OVER MY PRECIOUS GUITAR!!

LIKE I CARE! IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE ANY GOOD WITH A GUITAR ANYWAYS.

WHADDYA SAY?!

MAN, I'M SO SICK OF CATS. I'VE HAD ENOUGH WITH THAT FAT CAT LAZING AROUND BACK HOME.

YOU AREN'T BULLYING M..-CHAN, ARE YOU?

I'M MORE OF A DOG PERSON, ANYWAYS. CATS DON'T EVEN LIKE ME.

OW
AWA
WAW
AW

TO THINK YOU'D CRY OVER HAIR WHAT'RE YOU A GIRL?
JUST AS I HAD IT GROWN OUT THE WAY I WANTED MY DAD CHOPPED IT RIGHT OFF.
YOU'RE AWFUL YOU KNOW THAT, ,
Don't you know that a man's hair is his life?
HOW PATHETIC. MAN UP.

AND WHAT DOES THAT HAVE WITH ANYTHING?!

DON'T YOU UNDERESTIMATE ME! I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT I'VE ALREADY LEARNED TO RECITE THE BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES LIKE A PRO!!!

SAEKI !!!

HM?

YUMI-CHAN...

WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO? DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU WANDERING BY YOURSELF ON A WEEKEND

HAHA HA...

LET'S GO TOGETHER!

OH! THEY ARE HOLDING A FLEA MARKETING THERE, AREN'T THEY?

...I DIDN'T KNOW THEY WERE HOLDING A FLEA MARKET...

EH!!

I HAVE SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF AT THE SHOUBA GRAND SHRINE.

SO? WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO?

OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM!

Hahaha

ARE YOU OUT ON A DATE WITH SHOUHEI-KUN? WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

Leave me alone!

What's with you?

HEY, WHAT RE YOU GOING TO DO?

WELL, IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT?

WOW! IT'S SO BIG!

WHAT, YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HERE BEFORE?

I'VE BEEN HERE WHEN I WAS LITTLE BUT THAT'S IT.

OH THAT'S RIGHT YOUR HOME IS A SHRINE, HUH?

I GUESS YOU DON'T REALLY HAVE A REASON TO VISIT OTHER SHRINES.

WOW, A SHRINE OF THIS SIZE HAS LOTS OF EMPLOYEES, DON'T THEY?

ごめん下さい

WHAT A HUNK!

WATCH YOUR MANNERS

THESE LOT ARE BEINGS THAT LIVE WELL BEYOND A THOUSAND YEARS

BUT FORGET ABOUT THAT, LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH

WELL, I'M SURE IF ANY OF THEM ARE SUCCESSORS TO THE SHRINE, THEY CAN SEE ME

ヒソヒソ

GIN, WON'T THEY SEE YOU?

WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO BROWSE THE FLEA MARKET?

YUMI-CHAN, I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING

HUH?

HOW SUSPICIOUS~!

I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING!

I'm onto you~

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?

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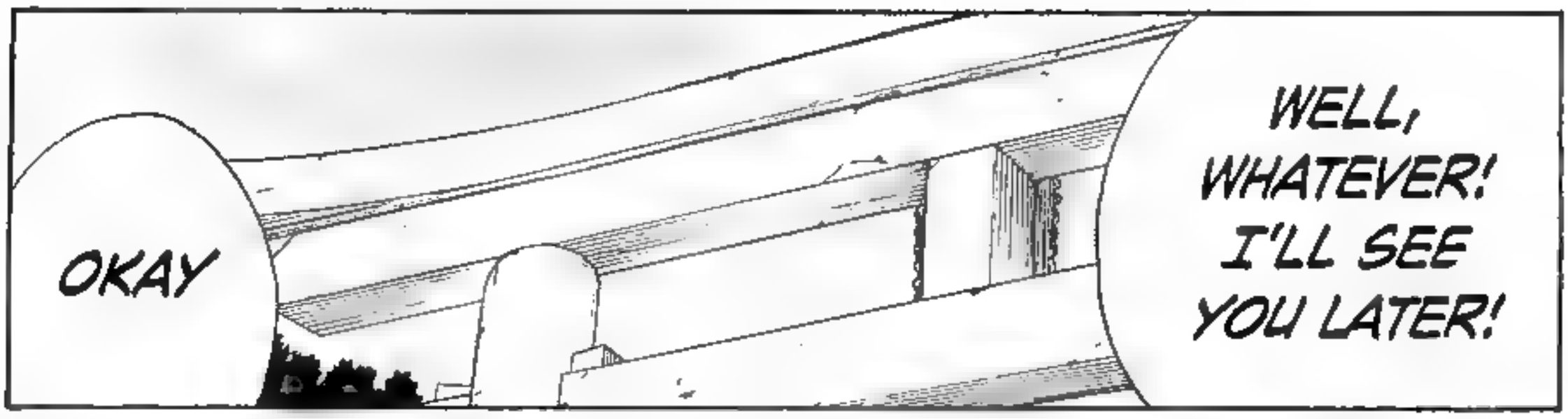
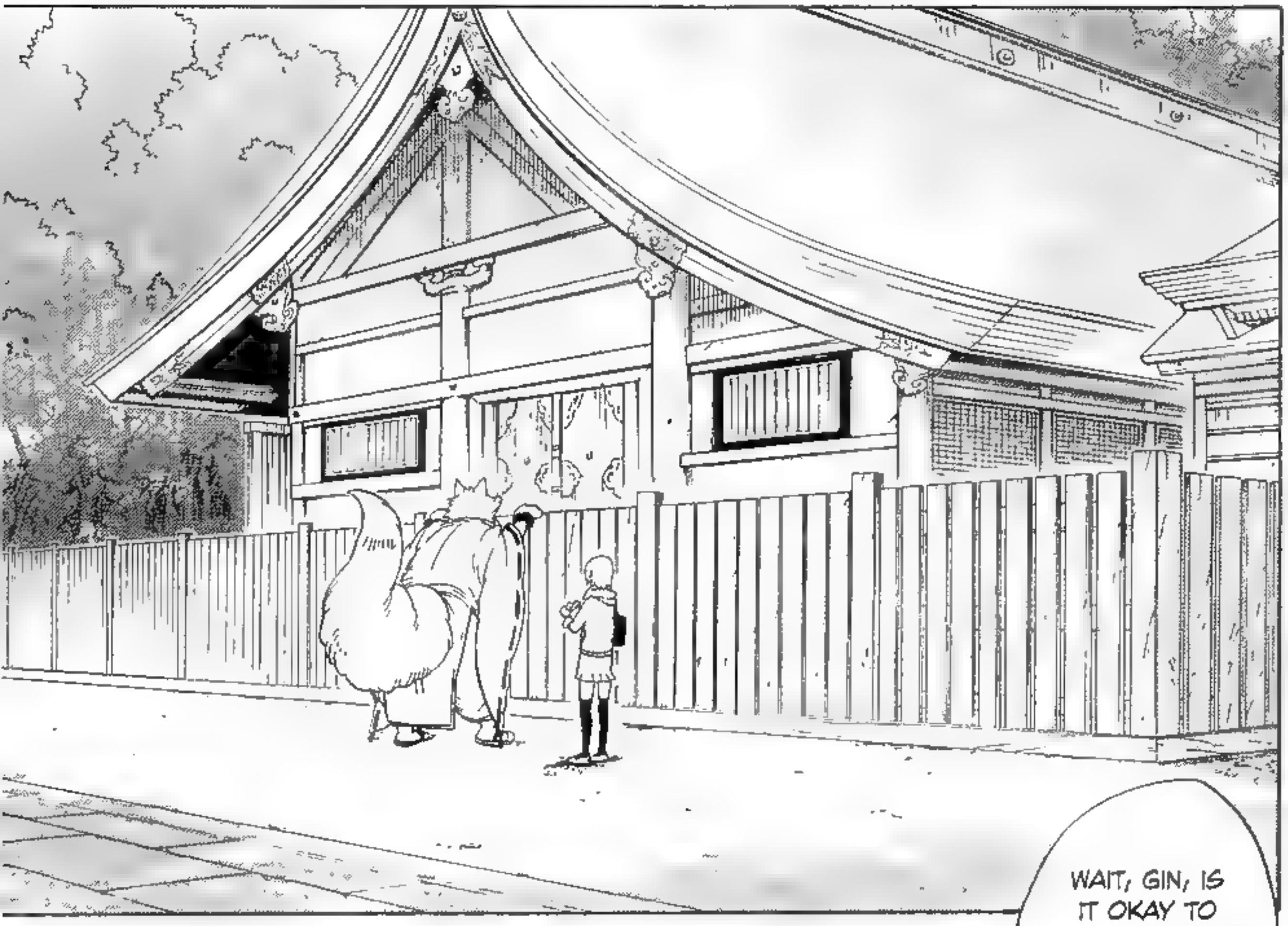

OKAY
WELL, WHATEVER! I'LL SEE YOU LATER!



I'LL BE SEEN IF I DO THAT!
HEY, GRAMPS! ARE YOU GUYS HOME?!
WHAT, SCARED?
WAIT, GIN, IS IT OKAY TO JUST WALK UP TO THEM LIKE THIS?

WHO BE IT?

AH

Slip

WHAT A RUCKUS

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HOME

WAH!

Lion-dogs!

grumble

YAWN

YO

They seem friendly...

MY, YOU'VE COME AGAIN

I'M HERE FOR A DIFFERENT MATTER TODAY

DID YOU HAVE A QUARREL WITH YOUR ORACLE AGAIN?

WAIT... WAS GIN HERE JUST RECENTLY?

HEY, DON'T FALL ASLEEP ON ME!

...ZZZ...

Do all heralds constantly sleep like this...?

...

NAY, IT HAS BEEN SEVEN DAYS SINCE THE LAST, LEFTY

BEEN THREE DAYS SINCE THE LAST, IS THAT NOT SO, RIGHTY?

CLOSE ENOUGH, I'D SAY

MMM

AH

SEVEN DAYS, YOU SAY...

NOT TO MENTION BEING PARTNERED WITH SUCH A FOOL OF A FOX

IT'S NOT EASY TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE

WHO'RE YOU CALLING A FOOL

AH, YOU'RE THE YOUNGIN THAT CONFOUNDS HIM SO OFTEN

SO, WHAT OCCASION BRINGS YOU?

S.. SORRY...

PLEASE, WE BEG YOU

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

?

ゼィゼィ

UMM...

OH, YOU BROUGHT A TURTLE WITH YOU?

THERE IS A REQUEST THAT I'D LIKE TO MAKE...

YES...

HEY

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UN

AH

SO YOU WANT TO HOUSE THE TURTLE IN OUR SHRINE

I SEE

WELL, WE DON'T MIND

ISN'T THAT GREAT, YOU'VE FOUND A NEW HOME!

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

IT MIGHT GET A BIT NOISY FROM HUMANS VISITING ALL THE TIME, BUT IF YOU DON'T MIND THAT

YOU CAN LIVE HERE IF YOU WANT. IT'S CERTAINLY LARGE ENOUGH FOR ONE MORE.

HOW IS IT?

あはは

?

I'M GLAD WE FOUND YOU A HOME~

SOUNDS JUST AS SLOW AS BEFORE TO ME

I CAN EVEN TALK FASTER THAN NORMAL~

I FEEL SO ENERGIZED

Ha Ha Ha

IT IS ALL THANKS TO YOUR HELP

I CANNOT BE ANY HAPPIER. THE SHRINE IS CLOSE BY, AND EVEN A POND TO BOOT~

A MOMENT, GIRL

I'M GOING TO GO FIND MY FRIENDS

OKAY

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THE TURTLE IS REALLY HAPPY WITH THE SHRINE!

THAT'S GOOD

HO HO

AH?

RIGHTY -SAN, LEFTY -SAN!

AND I'M UTAMARU

I'M SAIMARU

WE HAVE ACTUAL NAMES

EH?

BUT MIGHT I ASK YOU NOT TO CALL US RIGHTY AND LEFTY? IT'S A NICKNAME WE USE JUST BETWEEN THE TWO OF US

YEP! IT'S CUTE!

I WONDER IF GIN GOT HIS NAME FROM KINJIROU

MM

HIS FACE IS COMICAL IS IT NOT?

TAKE A GANDER

NO, I WAS BORN A BIT EARLIER THAN HE. WE ORIGINALLY WERE BORN WITHOUT ANY NAME

BUT I EVENTUALLY GAVE HIM QUITE A FITTING ONE

IT'S JUST LIKE OUT OF A FAIRY TALE!

SAIMARU-SAN, UTAMARU-SAN! WHAT CUTE NAMES!

ARE YOU TWINS?

EH?

UMM

I CERTAINLY UNDERSTAND HOW YOU TWO GET INTO FIGHTS SO OFTEN

HOHO, WHAT A BOORISH GIRL

GOSH... I'M SO LOST...

NO WAIT, MAYBE I SHOULD SAY TURTLE -SAMA?

THANK YOU, LITTLE GIRL

WE'RE RATHER HAPPY THAT WE WERE ABLE TO TALK A HUMAN AFTER SO LONG

NO, THE PLEASURE IS ALL MINE, YOU EVEN ALLOWED TURTLE-SAN TO STAY AND ALL...

I FORGOT I SHOULD BE TREATING THEM WITH RESPECT!

But they're so cute!

I APOLOGIZE FOR MY RUDE BEHAVIOR!!

NO, NO, DON'T GIVE IT ANY THOUGHT,

We don't actually mind

WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG?

BUT IT REALLY IS RARE TO SEE HUMANS SO YOUNG AROUND THESE PARTS.

And even rarer to see heralds and the like as of late

THERE USED TO BE A LOT MORE HUMANS HERE WHEN WE WERE YOUNG~

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANYONE ELSE TO TALK TO, SO WE'RE MORE THAN HAPPY TO HAVE HIM IN OUR SHRINE

WHAT ABOUT THE HEAD PRIEST HERE?

HE'S GROWN DULL WITH AGE AND CAN NO LONGER REMEMBER MUCH...

THE PREVIOUS HEAD IS RETIRED FROM AGE, BUT HE HAS YET TO PASS

BUT HE CANNOT SEE US QUITE YET

LOOK, HE IS RIGHT OVER THERE

IF I RECALL, THE HEAD PRIEST HERE IS THE RIGHTFUL SUCCESSOR TO THE SHRINE

I'LL DEFINITELY COME VISIT AGAIN! SO DON'T LOOK SO DOWN!

CHEER UP!!

EVEN A SHRINE AS BIG AS THIS HAS TROUBLES REGARDING THE SUCCESSION...

How lonely

IT'S SAD TO SEE HIM IN SUCH A PITIFUL STATE~

NOR DO WE HAVE SUCCESSORS OF OUR OWN... WHAT A CONUNDRUM...

AND THE REST NOW LIVE IN IGNORANCE OF OUR PRESENCE...

BUT NOW, ONLY THOSE WHO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY OF A SHRINE CAN SEE DIVINE BEINGS

GODS AND HUMANS ALIKE LIVED IN PEACE AND HARMONY TOGETHER...

A LONG TIME AGO, LONG BEFORE WE WERE BORN

WHAT A NICE LITTLE GIRL

REALLY?

THE DAYS SEEM ONE, AND TIME PASSES LIKE THE SAND THROUGH YOUR FINGERS

A YOUNGIN LIKE YOU MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE UNDER-STANDING, BUT

WE'VE COME TO LIVE A LOOOONG TIME

EVEN HUMANS WE COME TO HOLD DEAR COME AND GO LIKE THE TIDE

TO US, THE LIFETIME OF A HUMAN IS BUT A FLICKER

THANK YOU

BUT TODAY, YOU CAME HERE AND BRIGHTENED OUR DAY AND GAVE US A LAUGH

AND SO WE LIVED HERE IN OUR MONOTONE LIVES FOR EVER SO LONG

IT'S THANKS TO YOU THAT WE AWOKE FROM OUR HAZE TO SEE THIS WONDERFUL DAY, AND LOOK FORWARD TO MANY MORE TO COME IN THE FUTURE

AND THE FOX, AS DIFFICULT AS HE MAY BE, WE ARE HAPPY TO SEE HIM EACH TIME

BUT IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S ALREADY BEEN AGES AGO

TO ME, IT SEEMS LIKE HE LEFT BUT JUST YESTERDAY

NOT REALLY

AREN'T YOU LONELY WITHOUT KINJIROU AROUND?

GIN

I TOTALLY FORGOT

QUIT YOUR YAPPING. YOU OLD FOOLS SURE LOVE TO TALK ABOUT POINTLESS THINGS

HEY

OH DEAR

THIS FOX HAS THE EARS OF THE DEVIL IT SEEMS

SORRY, SORRY

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVEN'T TALKED TO A HUMAN IN SO LONG

BYE BYE!

OKAY, I'LL DEFINITELY COME AGAIN!

OKAY

LET'S GO, MAKOTO

DO COME AGAIN, MAKOTO -CHAN

FOOLISH GIRL

DON'T LISTEN TO THAT NONSENSE THEY TOLD YOU, GOT IT?

...THAT HURTS, MAKOTO

CHI

U

ううう

...

WELL

THAT'S TRUE

...I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THIS BEFORE...

YOU'RE ALWAYS GOING TO BE HERE AND I'LL BE LONG DEAD BEFORE YOU EVEN KNOW IT...

I'M NOT LIKE YOU...

HAH!

AND YOU'RE SO HEARTLESS ANYWAYS

YOU'LL JUST FORGET ABOUT ME THE MOMENT I'M GONE

HEHE

THERE IS NO WAY I'D FORGET ABOUT SUCH A FOOLISH GIRL

EVEN IF I WANTED TO

I'D NEVER BE ABLE FORGET YOU

...THANKS...

WAAH!

THERE YOU ARE!!!

HMPH

...

YUMI -CHAN...

heart pounds

GOSH, WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?